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Welcome Home!



Sgt. 1st Class Chris Nicholson receives a hug from a loved one as he arrives at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks after a deployment to Iraq with Det. 6 OSACOM. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger dies at 88

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Caspar W. Weinberger, the nation's 15th secretary of defense, died March 28. He was 88.

Weinberger took office Jan. 21, 1981, and served until Nov. 23, 1987, making him the longest-serving defense secretary to date. He died at the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor from pneumonia. The former secretary lived on Mount Desert Island, off the coast of Maine.



Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the men and women of DoD mourn Weinberger's passing. "Cap Weinberger was a friend. His extensive career in public service, his support for the men and women in uniform and his central role in helping to win the Cold War leave a lasting legacy," Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference today. "He left the United States armed forces

stronger, our country safer and the world more free."

During his tenure at defense, Weinberger served as the point man for President Ronald Reagan's unprecedented peacetime military buildup.

As secretary, Weinberger pushed modernization to make up for past funding deficiencies. The Reagan military buildup spent more than a trillion dollars and was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Weinberger also pushed pay and benefit packages for servicemembers. Pay raises he helped engineer in the early 1980s went a long way in keeping mid-level servicemembers from leaving the military for better-paying civilian jobs.

The American military was active during Weinberger's time as defense secretary.

Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in October 1983 was an answer to a bloody coup on the Caribbean island and the threat the new regime posed to American students at a medical college there. The regime, allied with Fidel Castro's Cuba, toppled following an air and seaborne assault by U. S. servicemembers.

Also that October was the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Lebanon that killed 241 Americans. Terrorist group Hezbollah claimed credit for the attack.

In April 1986, in response to Libyan terror attacks in Europe, the U. S. launched attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi in Libya. All aircraft returned home safely. The mission was a tremendous demonstration of American reach.

Weinberger also championed the so-called "Star Wars" missile defense program, the Air Force's B-1B bomber, and a "600-ship" Navy.

Weinberger was born in San Francisco on Aug. 18, 1917. He graduated from Harvard with a law degree in 1941 and entered the U. S. Army as a private. He received a commission and served with the 41st Infantry Division in the Pacific. At the end of the war, he served on the staff of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as an intelligence officer.

Commander's Corner



April is the Month of the Military Child

How I lived my life when my dad deployed

NATHAN WRIGHT AS TOLD TO ARLENE H. HULL FOR LIFELINES FROM THE NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

(Editor's Note: This article was written by the child of a U.S. Navy commander, but its message is one that all military children can understand.)

I was 12 years old when my dad, CDR David Wright, deployed to Iraq. For several years my family — my parents, my brother and two sisters, and I — had lived in Pensacola, Fla., where my dad was assigned to Pensacola Naval Hospital.

I knew about the war. I had seen the news about our military forces in Afghanistan, and I knew there was a possibility that my dad would go. But a possibility and reality are two different things. About two weeks before he was to leave, he got his orders. At first I was angry that he was going, that he wouldn't be here, but then I realized that he was going to do a noble thing: set up field hospitals to treat those wounded in the war. I could only be proud of him for that.

I knew that my dad would be safe and that he would come home to us, but deep in the back of my mind, I worried that maybe he wouldn't. I worried that if something did happen to him, my sisters, who were pretty young, wouldn't remember him. But I knew that I had to try not to worry. I had to keep positive thoughts in my mind. I had to stay focused on my schoolwork and try to live my life as normally as possible.

Since I was the oldest child in our family, I tried to help my mother around the house as much as I could. I even learned how to do my own laundry. I tried to be patient with my brother and sisters. I tried to show that I had the maturity to handle the pressure of my dad being away, and I think that was a good thing.

I had other friends at school whose parents were deploying at the same time. We made our own kind of informal support group for each other. We would talk to each other about things we were feeling and about our parents who had deployed.

My dad didn't have access to a computer, so we couldn't send e-mails. But we wrote an ongoing letter to my dad, with all of us adding things to it each day and then my mother would mail them every couple of days. We also made tapes to send back and forth. The tapes were good because it was nice to be able to hear his voice. I think that was especially good for my sisters to help them remember him.

We didn't watch the news all the time to see what was going on over there. If I heard about something at school or from some of the kids in the neighborhood and it worried me, I would talk to my mother about it and she would help put my mind at ease.

I sent my dad my grades while he was away, even though they weren't as good as when he was home. For his birthday while he was in Iraq, I sent him a set of toy soldiers and tanks. Some of his shipmates painted them and he brought them back home with him.

The thing I missed most while my dad was away was his humor, how he always makes me laugh, and his support. He is always there for me. I think that if he has to go again, I will be better prepared for it emotionally this time.



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First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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643rd MPs complete training, receive awards, head to Germany

CAPT. SANTO PIZZO
643RD MP COMMANDER

The 643rd has completed in-processing and is currently conducting M-9 qualification, driver's training and the USAREUR Head Start Program. We are already separated into our communities and there have been no problems. We have been assisted by 258th MP Company (Provisional) and I cannot say enough about them! Their command has helped us in such a manner that is truly commendable. The BSB commander and the PM have also told me that the 258th has gone above and beyond when it came

to taking care of us. I would like to recognize their CDR, 1SG, and XO for all that they have done.

Below is a breakdown of the 643rd's exemplary academic, APFT, Weapons Qualification, and selfless service while at Fort Leonard Wood:

Selfless Service: Four Soldiers were awarded The Army Achievement Medal for volunteering to go to a local school during a community function for Black History Month. The Soldiers were informed that there was a shortage of instructors and that the event was in jeopardy of not meeting its goal. All four Soldiers took it upon themselves to study up

on the material and presented an outstanding lecture on Black History. The students, parents, faculty members and community were thoroughly impressed at the Soldier's knowledge, professionalism and attitude towards the topic. A pastor was also so impressed that he and his house of worship presented the Soldiers with plaques for their volunteerism and professionalism.

The Soldiers were: Sgt. Jonathan M. Severance, Spc. Sean T. Richmond, Pfc. Gary W. McDonnell and Pfc. Adam G. Kane

Academic Awards: Several awards for academic excellence were presented to the 643rd during the units training at Fort Leonard Wood.

The below listed Soldiers were recognized for the MPTC Course for E-5 and Below:

Spc. Christopher J. Jachimowski - Distinguished Honor Graduate and Spc. Stephanie G. Goins - Honor Graduate

The below listed Soldiers were recognized for the MPTC Course for E-6 and Above:

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. Kasimir - Exceeded Course Standards MPTC, Staff Sgt. Latsamy M. Chanthavong - Exceeded Course Standards MPTC, Staff Sgt. Keith Sennick - Exceeded Course Standards for both MPTC and BNCOC, Staff Sgt. Nicholas D. Diluggo - Exceeded Course Standards for BNCOC, Staff Sgt. Dana M. Arcouette - Exceeded Course Standards MPTC

The below listed Soldiers were recognized for the MPOTC Course:

Capt. Santo A. Pizzo - Distinguished Honor Graduate and 1st Lt. William Baker - Exceeded Course Standards

The below listed Soldiers were recognized for scoring 290 or above on the record APFT: Staff Sgt. Sherri L. Padua - Score- 321, Spc.

Christopher A. Hansen - Score - 297 and Sgt. David C. Mann - Score - 291

The below listed Soldiers were recognized for scoring Expert on the M-9 Pistol:

Staff Sgt. Latsamy M. Chanthavong, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph P. Kasimir, Staff Sgt. Keith Sennick, Spc. Michael T. Barber, Sgt. Eric C. Gagnon, Spc. Scott P. Swanson, Spc. Eric C. Cote, Spc. Dariel Benitz, Pfc. Marivia Gonzalez, Sgt. John D. Kaminsky, Spc. Michael S. Walker, Sgt. Elysia E. Dahl, Sgt. David C. Mann, Spc. Sarah M. Lynch, Spc. Kai J. Huang and Capt. Santo A. Pizzo.

Three Soldiers also graduated from the Individual Non-lethal Weapons Instructor Course. There are only 1,200 of these instructors within all of the military services and the Connecticut Army National Guard has the following three: Staff Sgt. Latsamy M. Chanthavong, Staff Sgt. Jonas Dorissaint and Sgt. Jonathan M. Severance.

The First Sergeant received praise from the TASS Battalion Commander and CSM, as well as from other NCO's that he had a working relationship with during our stay at FT. Leonard Wood.

The 643rd received praise from the instructors, the staff, and the TASS Battalion as being the best unit to go through the school house. Our Soldiers were the front runners in all tasks, tests, and evaluations.



Members of the 643rd Military Police Company receive awards during ceremonies at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. (Photo by Col. Mark Russon, CAO, JFHQ-CT)



The 643rd Military Police Company in formation at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where the members were training for duty in Germany. The Connecticut Army National Guard unit will be conducting military police duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Col. Mark Russo, CAO, JFHQ-CT)



Family, friends completed

SPC. REBECCA REYNOLDS
65TH PRESS CAMP



Gov. M. Jodi Rell ties a ribbon on the guidon of the 141st Medical Company during the freedom salute March 11, 2006. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65th PCH)

When a unit of 54 Soldiers performs more than 4,800 missions, drives more than 15,000 miles and helps to save the lives of more than 12,000 U.S. and allied Soldiers and civilians, a celebration is in order.

After being deployed for fourteen months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 141st Medical Company was officially welcomed home with a Freedom Salute on March 11, at the New Britain Armory. Sgt. James Lorello performed the Star Spangled Banner.

"The National Anthem takes on a new meaning," said 2nd Lt. James H. Moran, 141st. "I have a more sincere appreciation of what I left behind. [The deployment] made me appreciate what I have back here. A house, a car, a job, and other freedoms we take for granted."

The mission of the 141st was an important one, said State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. "You have literally saved lives and enabled people to have better lives than they would have."

The 141st left Connecticut for mission certification training at Fort Dix, N. J. in October 2004. The Soldiers then departed for Kuwait before eventually proceeding to Iraq. The unit returned to the United States on Oct. 17, 2005.

During their deployment, the Soldiers of the 141st missed holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. Moran was happy the unit returned when it did.

"I actually got home on my son's birthday. It was great to start off the holidays with that," said Moran.



Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Maj. Gen. Thaddeus Martin pin medals on the Soldiers of the 141st Medical Company during the unit's Freedom Salute Ceremony. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65th PCH)

gather to celebrate deployment



"The hardest part was not having him home, missing him when he's not there," said Moran's wife, Kim.

Maj. Gen. Thaddeus Martin, adjutant general, thanked the families for enduring the separation.

"It's crystal clear without your love and support these Soldiers would have struggled," said Martin.

"When families stick together and give all the love and support that they have, it makes all the difference," said Gov. M. Jodi Rell. "It's not just your Soldier that appreciates that. Your state appreciates that."

Lt. Col. Kim Cyr, Joint Force Headquarters, feels fortunate to have her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cyr, 141st, home to once again aid in raising their three children.

"Now we can balance it out a bit more," she said.

While away from their families, the Soldiers of the 141st built friendships and learned to rely on each other.

"I got to know some people really well, especially the Iraqi interpreters," said Moran. "I almost feel guilty about leaving them behind."

"You definitely build more of a friendship," said Sgt. 1st Class Cyr. "You learn to support each other."

"I won't take training for granted anymore," said Cyr, "You have to put 120 percent in. You never know everything."



Capt. Anne Marie Garcia, commander of the 141st Medical Company stands in front of the company formation during the Freedom Salute Ceremony. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65th PCH)



Amanda, 5, along with her sister Abby, 10, and brother Chris, 12, get their medals pinned on by Brig. Gen. Lippincott as their parents Lt. Col. Kim and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cyr stand by. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65th PCH)



Maj. Mark Strout, company commander of Company B, 1st Battalion 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks, spends time with his niece at a formal welcome home ceremony on March 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65th PCH)

Aviation units receive hero's welcome home

Pvt. KRISTIN A. ALDO
65th PCH

It had only been three weeks after launching a campaign in which she asked Connecticut residents to support troops who have deployed overseas by putting candles in their windows, when Gov. M. Jodi Rell's candle crashed to the floor of her living room.

"That's not a good sign," the governor said to her husband, Lou.

Gov. Rell's husband assured her that it was a good sign because it meant that more troops were coming home. He then reassured her that they would put a new bulb in it the next day.

A few days after the broken bulb incident, the governor shared the story with about 50 Soldiers, family, and friends at the official welcome home for Company B and Detachment 1, Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks. The unit's Freedom Salute was held on March 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks.

"Your mission was a demanding one. In fact at many times it was extremely dangerous," said Rell, "you exhibited courage, technical expertise, and more than anything else, professionalism."

"I am honored and privileged to formally welcome home these exceptional Soldiers who so grandly responded to the call of their nation," said Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General of the State.

After being mobilized in July 2004, the units left Connecticut and arrived in Fort Sill, OK, in September 2004 for training. On Dec. 31, 2004 the units spent their New Year's Eve waiting to depart to Kuwait. After some final processing, they planted their feet in a place where they would call home for the next year, Iraq.

The units returned safely home in November 2005.

"My new year's resolution before we left was to bring everyone back safely," said CW3 Kurt Sutor, commander of Company D.

"I did just that," he said with a sense of accomplishment.

During their deployment Company D performed more than 150 aircraft inspections that ranged anywhere from 100-120 hours long. The unit replaced more than 40 engines and windows, replaced and maintained more than 89 main rotor blades and more than 20 tail rotor blades. The unit also repaired the high frequency radios, recovered eight aircraft for maintenance inspections that aided in keeping many of the aircraft flying.

"The unit accomplished things I never dreamt of," said Sutor, "we did stuff units before us with decades of experience couldn't do."

"The hardest part about the mission was

the long duty hours," said Maj. Mark Strout, commander of Company B.

"The Soldiers were great," said Strout, "they were always working hard."

"Most of the time I was trying to get them to rest a little," said Strout, laughing.

Company B, 189th Aviation Regiment averaged more than 500 flight hours per month, flying six to seven aircraft each day during their time in Iraq. The unit amassed more than 5,700 combat flight hours and completed more than 850 combat missions while transporting 18,900 passengers and more than 972,000 pounds of cargo.

"One of the nicest things about coming back with the unit was seeing how much the Soldiers had grown," said Sgt. 1st Class Dawn M. Church, acting first sergeant of Company D.

"Most of the Soldiers were fresh out of training when we left," said Church, "now they've had the chance to actually do their jobs."

"It gives me a large sense of pride for my Soldiers, knowing everything we've been through. It was hard, but the mission is so intense that you just have to drive on and focus on what you have to do," said Church.

The Soldiers of Company B and D were each presented with the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and either the Iraqi Campaign Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz shared a personal story when she told unit members and their families about her discussions with eight Iraqi women who were in the process of touring the United States to tell American officials and citizens about the elections that have been held in Iraq. Bysiewicz, who is in charge of administering Connecticut's elections, told the Iraqi officials that she would soon be speaking to Connecticut Citizen-Soldiers who had recently returned home after a year in Iraq. Bysiewicz recalled that one of the women, who now serves in a position equal to that of a U.S. Representative, encouraged Bysiewicz to express gratitude on behalf of the Iraqi people for bringing democracy to their country. Bysiewicz delivered that message and more to the members of Co. B and Det. 1, Co. D.

"Your selfless volunteerism, and your willingness to stand up and serve is the ultimate act of patriotism," said Bysiewicz.



Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Zastaury, congratulates the smiling Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks at a formal welcome home ceremony on March 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65th PCH)

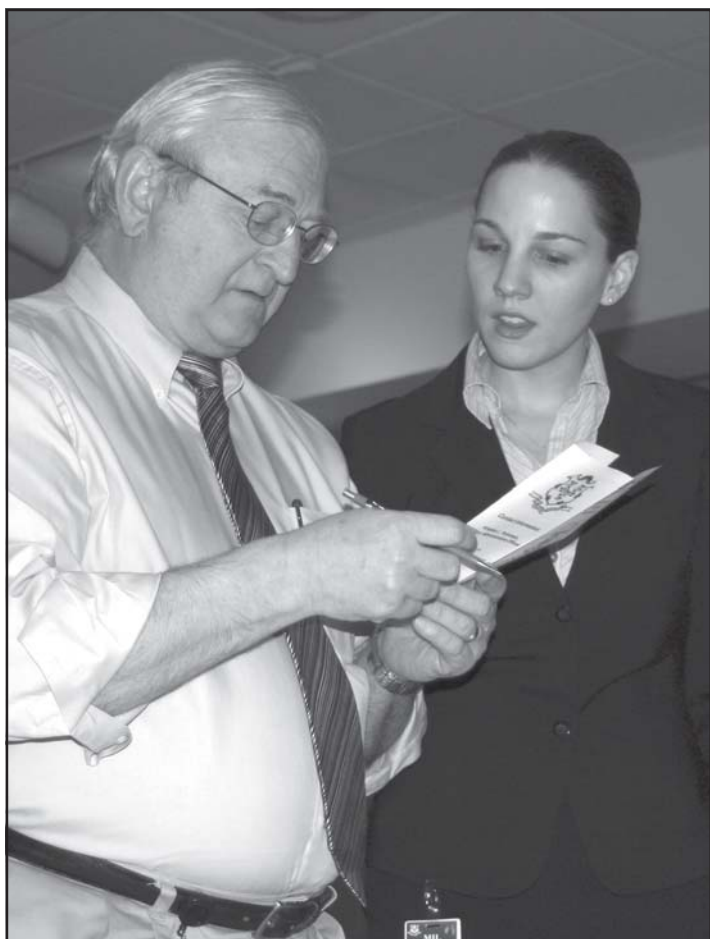


Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin pin on the service medals awarded to the soldiers of Company B and Detachment 1, 1st Battalion 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks at a formal welcome home ceremony on March 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65th PCH)



Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin congratulate Sgt. 1st Class Dawn M. Church, the acting First Sergeant of Company D, 1st Battalion 189th Aviation Regiment at a formal welcome home ceremony on March 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65th PCH)

NGACT holds Legislative Reception



Legislators see firsthand results of past legislative session

The National Guard Association of Connecticut held a Legislative Reception at the Officers Club of Connecticut in March to share information with state lawmakers on what the Association does and how it has implemented much of the legislation passed into law last year. Rep. Richard F. Ferrari discusses the Military Family Relief Fund with the fund's administrator, Kristina Polomsky. The fund is a direct result of laws passed during the 2004-2005 legislative session. (Photo by Joseph Brooks, NGACT)

Announcing

The 3rd Annual Adjutant Generals Combat Rifle & Pistol Championships "The TAG Match"

Open to ALL members of the
Connecticut Army & Air National Guard
(Limited to the first 50 registrants per event)

Two events: M16 A2 Rifle and M9 Pistol
(M9 Pistol will use .22 caliber conversion kit.)

Location: US Submarine Base, Groton, CT

Dates: 06-07 May 2006 (Pistol and Rifle)

You will be assigned your relay consisting of a one-hour slot per discipline. M9's with conversion kits and ammunition will be provided. Limited quantity of M16A2's will be on hand for those soldiers that cannot bring their issued rifle. (See match bulletin for more information.) Relays begin at 0800 through 1700 hrs. Trophies awarded for high team and individual scores, in both disciplines.

Register: By phone or e-mail indicating which event you wish to compete in and include your name, rank, unit and phone number. Also, state what time you prefer to compete.

Contact: By phone, MAJ Michael Dewey (860) 524-4833 or SSG Paul Ladd (860) 550-5221 or by e-mail, ctarngsarts@yahoo.com

Airman Battle Uniform finalized, ready for production

MASTER SGT. MITCH GETTLE
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

The new Airman Battle Uniform is ready for production and will be available in fiscal 2007, said the Air Force deputy chief of staff of personnel.

Many factors were considered in developing the final uniform selection, with the concern for Airmen being at the top of the list, said Brig. Gen Robert R. Allardice.

"We were looking for a uniform that would be easier to maintain," he said. "We wanted to provide a uniform that the Airman wouldn't need to spend a lot of out-of-pocket expenses to maintain."

Also, Airmen's feedback throughout the process was beneficial in adding new pockets on the uniform.

"We listened to the Airmen's request where they wanted pockets to hold small tools and when they wear body armor the existing shirt pockets are not accessible or usable," Allardice said. "It will have the four pockets on the front of the shirt, and also a small pencil pocket on the left forearm and two pockets on the lower legs. In addition, inside the side pockets and inside of the breast pockets there will be smaller sewn-in pockets to hold small tools, flashlights or cell phones."

The new uniform design is a pixilated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue. The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms.

Will the new ABU need to be starched and pressed?

"Absolutely not," he said. "Our uniform requirement is we want a uniform that you wash, pull it out of the dryer, and wear it. This requirement meets the ease and cost effectiveness needs in maintaining a uniform."

He speaks from personal experience and added that in the long run it will save Airmen money on dry cleaning costs.

"I tested this uniform. I wash it, take it right out of the dryer and wear it," Allardice said. "We don't want people putting an iron to it."

The fit of the uniform was also a concern for Airmen.

"We're making them available in more sizes to fit the body better," he said. "We've taken the time to produce more sizes and tailored them for men and women."

Some other ABU accessory items:

— A tan T-shirt will be worn; Airmen will be required to maintain one tan T-shirt with an Air Force logo on the front and Air Force written on the back.

— Suede cowhide boots in matching green-gray color; like the desert boot these will be polish-free and available in men's and women's sizes.

— The word color for the name, U.S. Air Force, and rank is midnight blue; nametapes and rank insignia background will be tan and will be sewn on using a matching tan color thread.

— The ABU adopts the battle dress uniform hat style for primary use and the floppy hat design will be used in some deployed areas.

"This is the uniform of the future," Allardice said. "Eventually when enough of these uniforms are manufactured, we will phase out the BDU and desert combat uniforms."

The current projected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is fiscal 2011.

The only thing that needs to be determined is if patches will be worn and the Air Force chief of staff will make that determination soon, Allardice said.



The new Airman Battle Uniform. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration)

First Army takes over mobilization nationwide: Part of Army Transformation

ARNEWS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

First U.S. Army's training mission expanded Jan. 16 to include training, readiness oversight and mobilization for U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the continental United States and two U.S. territories.

The transition of the expanded geographic mission began in mid-December with the transfer of authority between First Army and Fifth Army for the Western United States occurring Monday.

Part of Army Transformation

The Army's transformation necessitated restructuring the roles and missions of First Army and Fifth Army, officials said, to support reserve-component modularity and the Army Force Generation process known as ARFORGEN.

U.S. Army Forces Command is establishing First U.S. Army/Training and Readiness Oversight, and Mobilization Command (Provisional) as the multi-component headquarters responsible for the training and readiness oversight of reserve-component forces throughout the ARFORGEN process.

First U.S. Army will also be responsible for the mobilization of all reserve-component conventional forces in the

continental United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Honoré: No gaps to be accepted

Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general of First U.S. Army, said that the transition must be accomplished "with no gaps or degradation in training of the Army National Guard and Reserve units at any mobilization station."

First U.S. Army's expanded mission supports ongoing transformation efforts as the Army restructures its force into modular units. This restructuring changes the current division-based force into a brigade-based force.

The new modular combat and support units are more self-sufficient, more readily deployable, and easily combined with other Army and Joint forces, officials said. They said the purpose of Army Force Generation is to provide a continuous output of expeditionary, campaign-quality forces capable of full-spectrum operations.

Previously, First Army trained, mobilized and deployed U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Fifth Army becomes ARNORTH

First Army also conducted Homeland Defense in support of national objectives as well as providing Department of Defense support of civilian authorities, such as relief

efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Fifth U.S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has assumed the DSCA responsibility nationwide and will also be known as U.S. Army North, or ARNORTH, under U.S. Northern Command.

First Army to have East, West HQs

In its new role, First U.S. Army will continue to report directly to FORSCOM, Fort McPherson, Ga., and will have two subordinate multi-component headquarters — one training division in the western United States and one training division in the East. When established, these two divisions will support Reserve Component training, readiness and mobilization. Additionally, each western state's senior Army advisor to the Army National Guard; the 75th Training Support Division in Houston, Texas; and the 91st Training Support Division at Camp Parks, Calif.; will be reassigned as part of First U.S. Army.

The western divisions will join with the 78th Training Support Division in Edison, N.J.; the 85th Training Support Division in Arlington Heights, Ill.; and the 87th Training Support Division in Birmingham, Ala., already assigned to First Army.

(Editor's note: Information provided by First U.S. Army Public Affairs.)

Connecticut State Police looking for a few good people

The Connecticut State Police announced today that applications are being accepted starting April 5, 2006 for the position of Connecticut State Police Trooper Trainee.

The Connecticut State Police offers exciting challenges and the satisfaction of knowing you are serving people as a member of the best State Police Agency in the nation. We offer excellent benefits and a competitive salary. There are several different areas of specialization that troopers can embark upon as well as advancement opportunities.

Interested candidates can find out more information by visiting our web page www.ct.gov/dps or by obtaining an application at www.das.state.ct.us.

Scholarships available for Iraq, Afghanistan vets

Quinebaug Valley Community College in Windham County, has two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to students (continuing or who will be attending in the fall 07) who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Go to the college's website at www.qvcc.commnet.edu, click on Financial Aid and then on the Jens and Tomina Braaten Memorial Scholarship.

Warning Order

The 57th Annual Armed
Forces Day Luncheon

Friday, 19 May 2006
Aqua Turf Country Club
Southington, CT

11:00 Social – 12:00 Lunch
Cost \$25.00

Watch for the flyers coming soon



Pvt. Jon Anderson, A Company, 2/136th Combined Arms Battalion, assumes a defensive position after a simulated ambush on his unit during theater immersion training at Mobilization Camp Shelby, Miss. First Army assumed responsibility for training and mobilization of all reserve-component units in the continental United States and two territories Jan. 16. (Photo courtesy ARNEWS)

Soldiers prohibited from wearing non-standard body armor

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2006 – U. S. Soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq are prohibited from wearing non-standard-issue body armor, a senior Army officer told reporters in Washington, D.C. on March 31.

Parents of Soldiers serving in overseas combat zones “ought to feel comfortable with the fact and know . . . that we have provided the best body armor that is available anywhere in the world,” said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, the Army secretary’s deputy assistant for acquisition and systems management. Claims of superiority voiced by some manufacturers whose body armor isn’t certified for Soldiers’ use are just claims, Sorenson said at a Pentagon news conference.

Such equipment, he said, hasn’t been tested or evaluated. “They have not passed the rigor that we put into standards determining whether something is safe, effective and suitable,” Sorenson said. “And, until such time that they can do that, we will not give them, if you will, the ‘Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.’”

Sorenson referred to an Army safety message dated March 17 that directs commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure their Soldiers wear only Army-tested and -approved body armor. Commanders have 30 days after receipt of the message to conduct inspections to see that Soldiers are in compliance, according to the message.

The message also cautioned commanders that some Soldiers might be wearing a specific brand of non-Army-certified body armor that hasn’t undergone standardized testing procedures, a commercial body armor called “Dragon Skin,” made by Pinnacle Armor. Sorenson confirmed that Dragon Skin currently is not authorized for Soldiers’ wear.

The manufacturer has received Army funding to develop lighter-weight body armor. However, that system has yet to be subjected to Army certification tests.

Plenty of standard-issue body armor is available for Soldiers serving in overseas combat zones, Sorenson said.

In fact, more than 200,000 sets of tested and authorized body armor, he said, have been forwarded to U. S. military theaters of operation. Some Soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq have complained about the heavy weight of the body armor now being issued.

Sorenson said the Army continues to address such Soldier concerns. Providing Soldiers more comfortable and effective body armor “is what everybody is interested in,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Army continues to examine “all types of composites, all types of materials” in the search for better body armor, he said. “So, this is just a constant evolution. And, if someone finds the ‘holy grail’ (of body armor), then we’ll be right there to back up the dump truck and buy it,” Sorenson said.

‘Phishing’ scam targets Thrift Savings Plan participants

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Participants, as well as some non-participants, in the Thrift Savings Plan are targets of a “phishing” scam, an official with the board administering the program in Washington, March 20.

Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, said phishing is an “attempt to get recipients of the unsolicited e-mail to compromise themselves by giving up their personal financial information.”

Thrift Savings Plan administrators would never request personal or financial information via e-mail, Trabucco said. “Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail, and never give out information of a personal nature (through) unsolicited e-mails,” he said.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board alerted Thrift Savings Plan coordinators to the scam in a March 17 memo, the day after the scam was discovered. The memo described it as an unsolicited e-mail with a link to a bogus Web site appearing to be the thrift plan’s account-access site.

The bogus site asks for a recipient’s social security and Thrift Savings Plan personal identification numbers. Entering this information takes the user to another screen where they are asked for financial information, including a credit card number, he said,

adding that this information can be used to steal an individual’s identity.

As long as participants have not responded to this scam e-mail, their accounts have not been compromised, investment board officials said in the memo. Those who did respond should contact their financial institutions immediately for guidance. They should also call the Thrift Savings Plan at (877) 968-3778 and ask to have their account access blocked, according to the memo.

Phishing e-mails generally appear to be from a business or organization the recipient may deal with, according to a Federal Trade Commission Consumer Alert issued in June 2005. It may request that the recipient update, validate or confirm account information, the alert said.

Participants are encouraged not to attempt to access their accounts by clicking links offered in any e-mail, according to the memo. Only by opening a new Internet browser and typing the Thrift Savings Plan’s Web site into the address field can a participant be sure of accessing the authentic thrift plan Web site.

The thrift plan is a retirement savings plan for 3.6 million federal civilians and servicemembers, Trabucco said. Officials don’t know how many plan participants the scam has affected, but the FBI is investigating, he added.

Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc announces its 2006 scholarship program. This year the foundation will award a total of **four** scholarships.

1. **A single \$3000.00 scholarship honoring SGT Felix Delgreco Jr. will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard.**
2. **Three \$2000.00 scholarships will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses.**

Application forms may be found on the Foundations web site at: www.ctngfoundation.org

Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than **15 May 2006**
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program
4. Mail application form and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
360 Broad Street, Hartford Armory
Hartford, CT 06015

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241 1550 or e-mail ctngfi@sbcglobal.net for further details.

Theroux named 2005 First Sergeant of the Year

CAPT. AMY FLYNN
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master Sgt. Eugene Theroux, First Sergeant, 103d Mission Support Group, 103d Fighter Wing, has been selected as the Connecticut Air National Guard's 2005 First Sergeant of the Year.

"Master Sgt. Theroux is a compassionate leader; his primary concern is the welfare of the Airmen within the group," said Commander, 103d Support Group, Col. Fred Miclon. "During numerous training exercises, he has transported, attended, and followed-up on all emergency services for injured group members and their families."

Theroux began his military career following his graduation from high school when he enlisted in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Early in his military career, he served as a member of the 248th Engineer Company. In 1995 Theroux decided to change his military career.

He then joined the Connecticut Air National Guard where he accepted the position of First Cook within the 103d Services Flight. During

his tenure with the Air Guard, he has won numerous awards and continually been recognized as an outstanding performer by his superiors and peers.

Theroux also played a vital role during the 103d Fighter Wing's successful completion of the April 2005 Operational Readiness Inspection.

"As a team builder and mentor, during the April 2005 Operational Readiness Inspection, he expertly managed numerous Unit Control Centers as Survival Recovery Center Controller. His energy and professionalism are evident in every exchange he has with the Airmen under his discretion. This made him the obvious selection for this award," said Miclon.

Theroux' hard work and determination are not only evident at home station but also overseas. In July 2005, he was deployed to Aviano, Air Base. As stated in his award nomination, "He was intimately involved in all aspects of the deployment to include morale, welfare, and recreation events, lodging inspections, and a local change of

command ceremony and troop quality of life issues. His direct involvement brought praise from Aviano's squadron commander at the end of deployment send-off.

Theroux was surprised to hear of his selection for the award.

"I was honored to be notified of my selection. I'd like to express my thanks for the continued support of my command staff. As a first sergeant my job is to take care of the troops' welfare. First and foremost I always strive to provide 110 percent for the troops. My job is to approach each of the troops on an individual basis and accommodate them as their individual needs require," said Theroux.

Outside of his duties with the Air National Guard, Theroux is an avid volunteer with various community organizations. He finds time to support the Boy Scouts of America and the Knights of Columbus. He is also an active supporter of the local Red Cross and food pantries. Theroux can often be found participating in annual events and fundraisers with his children's school, in



Master Sgt. Eugene Theroux

which he often utilizes his food service expertise to serve as caterer for various functions.

Air Guard announces Company Grade Officer of the Year

CAPT. AMY FLYNN
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Second Lt. Bryon M. Turner, Communications and Information Officer assigned to the 103d Communications Flight, 103d Fighter Wing, has been selected as the Connecticut Air National Guard's 2005 Company Grade Officer of the Year.

This award comes early in Turner's career as a commissioned officer. In 2004, after nine years of enlisted service, Turner was selected for a commissioning opportunity with the 103d Communications Flight.

"Second Lt. Turner has proven his ability to lead under any circumstances. He has received accolades from the Headquarters Air Combat Command Inspector General, as officer in charge of the base communications unit control center, and has been selected as project officer for numerous flight and wing level initiatives," stated Communications Flight Commander, Maj. John Warren.

Additionally, Turner was on site at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, completing the expeditionary communications officer training course, when hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. After spending 6 days in a shelter at Keesler, he served as a Troop Commander, leading 120 enlisted pipeline students and dependants through a 3-day evacuation process.

"This designation as troop commander for well over 100 Keesler Air Force Base pipeline students and families during Hurricane Katrina demonstrated his poise under true pressure. The energy and maturity he injects into every situation that is thrust upon him make Lt. Turner truly, the only selection for this award," remarked Maj. John Warren.

Turner was surprised to hear of his selection for the award.

"It's always nice when your efforts are recognized, but I'm happy just to be given the opportunity to serve," said Turner. "From all the great senior noncommissioned officers I have had the pleasure of working for as an Airman, to the various officers I continue to work for; each has had a hand in my development and continues

to lend a hand to this day. I also have the privilege to work for the best organization in the wing, the folks in the communications flight make my job easy, and they are the best!"

As stated in his award nomination, "Lt. Turner played an important role as a member of the Wing's Transformation Team, developing the tracking solution for the self-inspection program. His efforts directly lead to a successful Air Combat Command, Inspector General Unit Compliance Inspection in 2005. Turner was also recognized by the Air Combat Command, Inspector General as a member of the Superior Performer Training Team. Earlier in 2005 he had also earned the title of Superior Performer in two separate Operational Readiness Inspections."

Turner attributes the successes that he has had in his career, thus far, to the opportunities that he has been given.

"Any one of my peers could have received this honor," said Turner. "The wing has been kind enough to allow me to serve in various ways, and has trusted me with a number of career broadening tasks. My mentors have always been there to offer guidance along the way."



2nd Lt. Bryon Turner

Warning Order

The 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon

Friday, 19 May 2006

Aqua Turf Country Club
Southington, CT

11:00 Social – 12:00 Lunch

Cost \$25.00

Watch for the flyers coming soon

Around the Guard

Largest replica of Vietnam Veterans Wall to make premiere visit to Northeast U.S.

Tribute to All Veterans Will Be Open 24 Hours a Day

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. that is 80 percent of the actual size, will be on display on the Windsor Town Green on Broad Street (Rte. 159) in Windsor, Conn. from April 27 to April 30. The exhibit is a tribute to ALL men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

This 8-foot high by 370 foot-long wall, is the largest exhibit of its kind. Windsor will mark its very first visit to the Northeast. Like the actual memorial, it lists the names of men and women who died in the Vietnam War, and features computers with databases and printers to help people locate names on the wall. An exhibit of artwork by veterans of many U.S. conflicts is featured. Supplies also will be available so people can make rubbings of individual names to remember.

The visit by American Veterans Traveling Tribute is presented by Windsor's First Town Downtown organization, with the help of the Town of Windsor and the Windsor Chamber of Commerce.

The Wall can be viewed 24 hours a day. Its computers with database of names and their locations on the wall will be available on first day from 2 p.m.-8 p.m., and after from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, April 27 at 2 p.m. and Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m.



Candlelight vigils will be held all four nights at 7:30 p.m. – candles will be provided by Windsor's First Town Downtown.

Free admission. Free Parking. Open rain or shine. For details about the Connecticut visit, call (860) 683-8410 or go to www.firsttowndowntown.org For more information about the exhibit, visit www.avtt.org.

Do you have what it takes
to take your career to the next level?



INSTRUCTORS NEEDED
Training Tomorrow's Leaders
The 2ND BN (GS) / 169TH REGIMENT
(LDR) at Camp Rell is seeking highly
motivated SSGs who have completed BNCOC.
We have *immediate* need for 5 Soldiers to fill
slots as BNCOC Phase 1 Common Core Small
Group Leaders. Qualified applicants must
have 3 years time in service remaining, be a
high school graduate or possess a GED
equivalent, recently held a Skill Level 3 or 4
leadership assignment, and be selected
through an initial interview and screening
selection process.

POC is 1SG Daniel Morgan -
daniel.p.morgan@us.army.mil



A Co. 1st Bn. (OCS)
Officer Candidate Class 51
Dining Out
Civilian Guests Are Encouraged
to Attend



Location: Nett Hall, Camp Rell, Niantic, CT
Date: April 29, 2006
Time 1800 hrs
Tickets Cost \$50 per person

Mess Dress, Dress Blues or Class A's
with White Shirt and Black Bow Tie for Military Personnel
Semi Formal Dress for Civilians

For Additional Information Contact:
OC Joseph Brooks
Phone: 860-493-2770

Connecticut Military Department News

First Company Governor's Foot Guard announces dog show results

SGT MARK BOUDREAU1ST Co.,
GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Maj. Commandant Dennis Conroy, sponsored the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Dog Show and Obedience Trial on February 19th, 2006 at the Hartford Civic Center Exhibition Hall. This was the 75th time that the Foot Guard has sponsored this annual event, making it the diamond anniversary edition of the show. The AKC certified show is an All Breed, Obedience and Junior Showmanship (AB/OB/JSHW) event. Almost 1300 dogs from as far away as Texas, Minnesota and California as well as Canada were registered to compete in the show. Nearly 140 different breeds of dogs were represented. Proceeds from the dog show are used to fund pre-veterinary scholarships for students in the School of Agriculture at the University of Connecticut.

The show was a success in every aspect. The weather was clear and dry making it a great day for spectators to get to the show, and many did. The competition was spirited as there were many fine animals to see and meet, with the owners and handlers always happy to talk with visitors about their dogs. The show ran smoothly and efficiently with many handlers and judges commending the Foot Guard on the quality of the event.

The Best in Show Award was won by an ASCOB (Any solid color other than black) Cocker Spaniel named Peri's Legally Blonde owned by Virginia Gilliland of Ontario, CA.

Each year in conjunction with the dog show there is a presentation of the Foot Guard's Stubby Award for canine heroism. A Stubby Award was not presented this year because no qualified candidates were nominated. This award is named after Sgt. Stubby, a decorated World War I dog who was secreted to Europe by a Connecticut soldier. Sgt. Stubby



displayed outstanding heroism many times on the battlefield, despite being wounded more than once.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard is the oldest continuously serving military unit in the United States. www.governorsfootguard.com

ANNUAL REDLEG BALL

You are cordially invited to join the members of the Connecticut Redleg Chapter of the US Field Artillery Association and the 192nd Field Artillery Battalion Association at the Annual Redleg Ball.

Date: Saturday, 6 May 2006

Time: 1800-1900 Social Hour
1900 Dinner
Presentations
Social Hour/Cash Bar

Place: The Continental Manor
112 Main Street
Norwalk, CT 06851

Menu: Buffet served Roasted Chicken, Sausage & Peppers, and Pasta with Oven Roasted Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, and Salad

Dress: Military: Class A w/ White Shirt and Bow Tie, Army Blues/Dress Mess
Civilian: Semi-Formal

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Proceeds to benefit the Connecticut National Guard Foundation

Directions/Hotel Information: E-mail fgerald@aol.com.

Please detach and return along with check made payable to:
Connecticut Redlegs
1 Lakeview Dr East
Norwalk, CT 06850-2017

Name: _____ Rank _____ Unit/Former Unit _____

Guest: _____

Address _____

I/we will _____ will not _____ attend. Total Attending _____

_____ I cannot attend but would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the Connecticut National Guard Foundation. Amount enclosed: _____

Membership Opportunities

in the

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard

The Oldest U.S. Military Organization in Continuous Service Since 1771 is Currently Accepting Membership Applications.

- Dual enlistment permitted for current National Guard members
- Positions available in our rifle companies, band, color guard, rifle team, and honor guard.
- Participate in State ceremonies and represent Connecticut's military heritage.
- All State Militia uniforms provided

Everyone Welcome!

Membership information available at: Governorsfootguard.com

In
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G/
Av
in



Sgt. Chase and Sgt. 1st Class Yungk in Tall Afar (Photo courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Pepin, G/126th AVN)



CW5 Bothur and CW4 Jones in the maintenance area (Photo courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Pepin, G/126th AVN)

Images from 126th Aviation in Iraq



Spc. Martinez (Photo courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Pepin, G/126th AVN)



Mr. David Delahouy, Staff Sgt. Pratt, Sgt. 1st Class Pepin, Sgt. Goeppinger and Sgt. Dautaj. (Photo courtesy Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Pepin, g/126th AVN)

Recruiting & Retention: Mission One

Family values bring siblings to the Guard

STAFF SGT. PABLO RAVIZZOLI
RECRUITING & RETENTION COMMAND

Spc. Marivia Gonzales is at the tip of the spear. She leads her family's proud tradition in the military by volunteering to deploy to Germany with the 643rd MP Company.

As her Connecticut Army National Guard recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Mike, said, "Strong family values give young people what it takes to be a essential part of our team."

For the Gonzales family, the transition into becoming a military family came in Sam Gonzales' late high school years. As a football player at Enrico Fermi High School, he had dreams of playing at the university level. Unfortunately, a career-ending injury put Sam in a position to look at life and make some plans.

He had always admired people in the military and wanted badly to find a way to get himself through school and began to find out about joining the CT Army National Guard from his recruiter, Mike.

As he sat with Sam at his kitchen table, Mike got to know the Gonzales family. The healthy, athletic, competitive environment of the Gonzales household was sure to produce the quality Soldier he wanted to join the Guard team.

Sam enlisted in the Guard in April of 2000, mostly "for the educational benefits." Soon enough, though, he found different reasons. At Basic Combat Training, Sam "...had dedicated Drill Sergeants" who were very professional and highly qualified, and "had respect for the National Guard."

Drill Sergeant Thomas, in particular, made a large impact on Sam's view of his decision to serve. He instilled in Sam "a different

feeling of pride" that helped him look at the world in a different light. Sam took charge in being a responsible, motivated, positive force in his and others' lives.

The impact was immediately evident in his demeanor when he came back to school for his senior year. His friends saw that he was driven and focused to make his future happen.

The feeling of pride, the healthy competition and the great opportunities of the Connecticut National Guard push Sam Gonzales to be an integral part of the 712th Maintenance Company as a 63J (Quartermaster, Chemical Equipment Repair

Specialist). Since joining, he has helped to recruit 11 of his friends and in the process has built a strong personal relationship with Mike, who never fails to stay in touch with Sam and his family.

Seeing the positive impact of the Guard on his life, sisters, Marivia and Bethzaida, also decided to join.

Pvt. Bethzaida Gonzales is now a 92A (Automated Logistics Specialist) in the 169th AVN in Enfield. Like her brother Sam, she joined the Guard because of the family tradition, the pride of serving in the military and the educational benefits.

She remembers sitting at the kitchen table

at the age of 13, when Sam was learning about the National Guard, already wanting to join.

She now takes advantage of her benefits as a full-time student pursuing an accounting degree. She joins her whole family in the feeling of pride for her sister's service.

Marivia Gonzales, now a private first class and a 42A (Administrative Specialist, previously 71L) is preparing to deploy with the 643rd MPs to Germany. The unit, with different skills and qualifications from different MOSs will cross train to become an organic Military Police Company, giving Marivia the opportunity of a lifetime: to travel to Europe and proudly represent her country, the State of Connecticut and her family while getting paid for it all.

Going from once being an outgoing high school student, involved in track and field and volleyball, being a part of several clubs to becoming a motivated Soldier looking for her next big challenge was almost a natural progression.

As Marivia puts her schooling to become a nurse on hold, she brings great pride to her family. The decision to be a selfless servant by volunteering to deploy with the 643rd reflects the family values she grew up with.

The perseverance, team work and thirst for challenges are a driving force in the Gonzales household and will become part of the formula for success in upcoming months for the 643rd as they prepare to embark on a year-long deployment for base security in Germany. Through the service of Sam, Bethzaida and Marivia Gonzales, it is easy to see that good family values make the Connecticut Army National Guard.



Sam, Marivia and Bethzaida Gonzales keep the Guard all in the family. (Photo courtesy of the Gonzales Family)



AVCRAD Soldier donates billboard space

Recruiting is the life blood of the Connecticut Army National Guard. As a team, we all benefit from finding qualified young men and women who are up to the challenge to join us in defending freedom. Sgt. Leland Zak of the 1109th AVCRAD has donated five months of advertising space for Recruiting. His house, which is located on a well-traveled road, has a billboard on it that is visible in both directions of traffic. Zak has made it available to Connecticut Army National Guard Recruiting to place a message on it and in turn helped us, as an organization, to stay strong and maintain the force. Selfless service and the Army Values make our guard what it is today and will help us to grow in the future. Hooah! (Photo courtesy R&R Command)

DoD launches military financial education program

STEVEN DONALD SMITH
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

A general lack of financial knowledge makes servicemembers an ideal target for predatory money lenders, so the Defense Department is doing something about it, officials said in Washington.

"Equipping servicemembers with the tools and resources they need to make sound financial decisions is integral to both military readiness and the strength and stability of our servicemembers and their families," David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said at a news conference held at the U. S. Capitol building.

To meet these ends, the Defense Department has partnered with the National Association of Securities Dealers Investor Education Foundation to launch the Military Financial Education Program. The NASD Foundation was started in 2003, and is part of the Defense Department's financial readiness campaign. NASD is the largest private-sector provider of financial regulatory services.

"We know from research we've conducted that a high percentage of servicemen and women lack basic financial knowledge," Robert Glauber, chairman and chief executive

officer of NASD, said. "We are here to unveil an important new program that will help members of the armed services and their families manage their money, and save and invest it wisely."

Unscrupulous financial institutions often use deceptive tactics such as hidden fees and exorbitant interest rates to take advantage of unsuspecting investors, officials said.

"Military families on or near base are a captive audience for everyone from used car salesmen to payday lenders," said Mary Shapiro, vice chairman of NASD.

The education program will teach basic investment necessities such as how to buy a car, saving for retirement, and the tradeoffs between risk and return on investment, Glauber said. The genesis of the program came when First Command Financial Planning, a Texas-based financial lending company, was fined \$12 million for making misleading statements while selling investment plans to military families.

About \$4.5 million of the fine money was returned to investors, while the rest of the money was set aside for the Military Financial Education Program, Glauber said.

The program will not use any taxpayer money.

"This initiative started with our disciplinary action against First Command Financial Planning. We and our partners want to make sure that that sort of thing never happens again," Shapiro said. "We believe the Military Financial Education Program will move us a long way toward that end."

The multifaceted program includes:

- a. An online resource center that will serve as a centralized, trusted source for unbiased information on saving and investing, including original content, interactive tools, links to financial education resources;
- b. On-the-ground training to support the military's current Personal Financial Management Program by establishing a coordinated and uniform financial education program, including the training and continued certification of personal financial managers and other volunteers;
- c. Educational tool kits for trainers and investors offering multiple levels of personal financial information;
- d. On-base activities and events to motivate families to take responsibility for their financial well-being; and
- e. A long-term public outreach campaign, including print, radio and television public

service announcements and media outreach to raise awareness of the tools, information and services available to military people and their families.

The program's Web site, SaveAndInvest.org, has a plethora of investor information and links to the NASD Web site, where further financial information can be found. The U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission also has launched an investor information section for military families on its Web site.

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton spoke at the news conference and said she learned about financial scams perpetrated against military personnel from her constituents.

"It's a national problem that deserves a national solution," the senator said. "This program is one of the best answers that we could come up with."

Chu expressed high hopes for the program. "It is our hope that with programs like this, that in the future our military personnel will be as well known for their financial savvy as they're known today for their military prowess," he said.


OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
Hartford Armory (860) 249-3634

April 2006


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lion King at Bushnell, Dinner at O'Club May 13 & June 1 \$110 person Call Virginia Scheller 282-0778 for tickets						1 National Guard Drill
2 National Guard Daylight Savings Time Begins	3 5-7 PM Ct Catholic Hospital Council Legislative Reception 6 PM Quiet Birdmen Dinner	4	5	6 5-7PM Pitney Bowes Legislative Reception	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10	11	12 830 & 12N OEM Breakfast & Lunch at OEM Office	13 Passover Basketball Tournament	14 Good Friday State Holiday Club open for Lunch	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18 1230 PM Ladies O'Club lunch	19 830 AM UConn Breakfast	20 12 N Mosa Lunch 3-6 PM CCDA legislative Recep 530 Bd Of Gov.mtg	21 6 PM Spring Fling Dinner Dance \$30 per person Res: 249-3634	22 6 PM Officers Assoc 1st Co Gov Foot Guard Dinner dance
23	24	25	26 Secretaries Day aka Administrative Professionals Day	27	28	29 Bowling Banquet Lucy
30 12 Noon Lunch -Fran	O'Club open Daily for Lunch 11:30 - 2:30 PM Bar & Lounge open at Lunch and 4PM - Close					

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
PRESENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006
SPRING FLING



National Guard Armory
Hartford, Ct. (860) 249-3634
Cost \$ 30 per person (plus tax & tip)
Cocktails 6:00PM
Dinner 7:00 PM
MENU
Steakhouse Salad w/ Lump Crabmeat
& Remoulade Dressing
Entrees: 14 oz Black Angus Porterhouse Steak
with Wild Mushroom demi-glace, or
Whole Boneless Cornish Game Hen stuffed with Wild Rice,
topped with Gran Marnier Sauce or
Chilled Lobster Salad Mignon: 1/2 Maine Lobster,
Stuffed w/ Assorted Seafood and Surrounded by Fresh Fruit
Family Style Vegetables
Dessert : Jr Individual Strawberry Cheesecake w/ Raspberry Sauce
Dancing to the Music of *The Renovators*
Reservations Please! O'Club (860) 249-3634



Military Matters

Occupational licensing and certification

SENIOR MASTER SGT. KEVIN SALSBUARY
STATE CLASSIFICATION SPECIALIST

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series on licensing and certifications. See the May issue of the Guardian for the second part.)

Did you know that you can use your military education and experience to possibly qualify for a State license or certification? Before you can actually practice in some occupations, you must meet certain professional and technical standards. *Credentialing* is the process by which you meet these standards. State Agencies and Credentialing Boards are the organizations that set these uniform standards and assure that individuals meet the criteria for their profession. For some occupations, Federal or State law requires specific training and education in order to practice legally. In other cases, employers may choose only to hire employees who have certain credentials. Or, individuals may opt to become credentialed, in order to improve their employment situation.

There are three types of Credentialing: licensure, certification and registration.

- **Licensure** - Occupational licensure is the authorization that a governmental agency grants to an individual to practice within a specified occupation. The individual must meet certain standards defined in state or federal law or regulations. Licenses are granted by federal, state, and local government agencies and are typically mandatory.

- **Certification** - Occupational certification is the process by which a non-governmental agency or association or private sector company recognizes an individual who has met certain predetermined qualifications that are specified by the certifying agency or association. Certification may be an optional credential; although some state licensure boards and some employers may require it as a prerequisite for employment.

- **Registration** - Occupational registration is the least restrictive form of credentialing. Those wishing to engage in registered occupations must submit an application to be placed on an official roster maintained by the appropriate organization or agency. The requirements for registration are usually minimal. Individuals may be asked to produce documentation for qualification,

character reference, and bonding. Registration can merely be an administrative or professional list of people who are already certified.

What requirements do I have to meet in order to become licensed or certified?

To become licensed or certified, you may have to meet any number of requirements specified by the credentialing board. The credentialing boards typically look at exam scores; the amount and type of occupational experience; completion of an academic degree program; and completion of training or apprenticeships. For some credentials, the boards may also have requirements related to residency; how recently the training or experience took place; continuing education requirements or reexamination requirements associated with renewal.

What steps must I take to become licensed or certified?

Step 1: Determine if the civilian equivalent of your military occupational specialty is licensed and/or certified and by whom. If certification is the only credential applicable to your job, you may want to assess how necessary or helpful it will be in obtaining a civilian job. As noted, certification is typically an optional credential that may or may not help you get a job. You may want to contact some potential employers or review employment ads to determine whether or not it is critical to getting the type of job you want. See the State of Connecticut Licensing Center website for information and follow the links for the occupation of your choice. Go to: www.ct-clc.com.

Step 2: You must complete the application. The most important aspect of your application is the documentation of your training and experience, and in particular your military training and documentation. The following documents are suggested:

- Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) - The DD-214 is a source of significant authoritative information used by civilian and governmental agencies to validate veteran eligibility for benefits. It is issued to every service member at time of discharge from active duty. Your servicing personnel office should have a copy of your DD Form 214(s) on file if you can't find yours.

- Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET Form 2586) - The VMET Form 2586 is created from a service member's automated records on file. It lists military job

experience and training history, recommended college credit information, and civilian equivalent job titles. To obtain go to:

www.dmdc.osd.mil

- **National Guard Time** - To document your National Guard service you should provide the following:

- AFSC/MOS Course Completion Certificate and/or transcripts (see below)

- AFSC/MOS Description

- Course transcript w/start & stop dates

- Training Records

- Time actually spent performing the career field. You may be required to present drill schedules and or active duty orders to verify the number of days you performed duty.

- For transcripts:

- **Army ACE Registry Transcript System (AARTS)** - a computerized transcript system that produces official transcripts for eligible soldiers upon request by combining a soldier's military education, training and experience with descriptions and credit recommendations developed by ACE. The transcript is available to those service members who entered the service after 1981 and can be requested by active duty service members through the local education center. Go to: aarts.army.mil. AARTS information consists of current rank, military status (active or inactive), time in service, current academic level completed, additional skill identifiers (ASI) and skill qualification identifiers (SQI), formal military courses, military occupational specialties (MOS) held, standardized test scores, and descriptions and credit recommendations developed by the American Council on Education (ACE).

- **Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Transcripts** - The CCAF also provides a transcript that documents service members' education and training. CCAF transcripts are free. Go to: http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/active_transc.htm

Transcript requests can also be sent to: CCAF/RRR, 130 West Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6613, Phone: (334) 953-2794, or E-mail: registrar.ccaf@maxwell.af.mil

Step 3: If necessary, obtain additional training and/or experience to qualify for licensure and/or certification.

Bonus eligibility highlighted

(Effective 27 January 2006- 31 May 2006 Policy #06-05 & AR 135-7 AFQT Score must be 31 or higher)

Conversion Bonus

Effective Immediately the ARNG offers an MOS Conversion Bonus of \$2,000 to eligible Soldiers who sign a written agreement to serve for a period of not less than 3 years in a new MOS due to unit reorganization

Reenlistment/ Extension Bonus

The ARNG offers a \$20,000 NPS critical skill MOS bonus to applicants who enlist for 6X2 OR 8X0 enlistment options and select one of the "top ten" critical MOS'S.

The ARNG offers a \$15,000 NPS critical skill MOS bonus to applicants who enlist for the 3X5, 6X2, OR 8X0 enlistment options and select one of 20 NGB approved state critical MOS'S.

The ARNG offers a \$10,000 NPS bonus to applicants who enlist for 3X5, 6X2, OR 8X0 enlistment options and agrees to serve in a MTOE unit regardless of MOS.

The ARNG offers a \$5,000 NPS bonus to applicants enlisting for the 3X5, 6X2, OR 8X0 enlistment options and agrees to serve in a TDA unit regardless of MOS.

The ARNG offers the \$5,000 NPS off peak and quick ship bonuses for applicants who enlist for 3X5, 6X2 or 8X0 enlistment option who meets the eligibility requirement. These incentives can not be combined with the NGB "top ten" critical skill MOS bonus.

The \$5,000.00, \$10,000 or \$15,000 NPS cannot be combined with the NGB top ten critical skill MOS bonus.

A Soldier that has 20 years or less may reenlist for a bonus in the amount of \$15,000 for six years. \$7,500 or \$6,000 for three years. All payments are paid in two increments the initial payment and the third anniversary.

The ARNG offers a \$15,000 REB to deployed Soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait who re-enlist for six years, \$7500 and 6,000 for 3 years. Deployed Soldiers will be paid bonus in lump sum.

Affiliation Bonus

The ARNG offer a 3 year and 6 year AB option to prior service Soldiers who are discharged or released from Active Duty under honorable conditions within 180 days who agrees to serve in the ARNG who has less than 20 years of service.

The ARNG offers a \$20,000 AB for 6 years and \$10,000 for 3 years. Payment schedule for affiliation bonus: initial payment upon enlistment and the second and final payment on the third year anniversary.

Student Loan Repayment Program

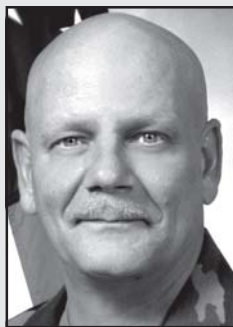
The ARNG offer NPS enlistees and Soldiers that extend or reenlist the student loan repayment program not to exceed \$20,000. (NPS must have an AFQT 50 or higher) must enlist or reenlist for a minimum of 6 years.

Point of Contact for these incentives is Sgt. 1st Class Debbie Wilson, 860-524-4809 or debbie.wilson1@ng.army.mil



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COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Enlisted Update

Good news, good luck

Good luck to all the members of the 643rd Military Police Company and the 1st Battalion 102nd

Infantry during their deployment. Remember all the lessons learned during your training before and after the Mobilization Station. Watch out for and take care of your Battle Buddy every day. You and your families are all in our thoughts and prayers!

Welcome Home to the Soldiers of Det 6 Operation Support Airlift Command. I had the opportunity to meet the Soldiers when they arrived at the El Paso, Texas airport and then when they arrived home at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks several days later. It is great to have you all back!

Congratulations to all the members of the 143d Military Police Company (Combat Support) for receiving the Valorous Unit Award from the Secretary of the Army for outstanding performance during the period of April 16, 2003 and Jan. 31, 2004 while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Assist, Protect, Defend!"

As I prepare to travel to Vermont for the 1st Army North Soldier and NCO of the Year Board, I am confident that both Spc. Silas Holden (CTARNG Soldier of the Year 2006) and Staff Sgt. Edward Bonetti (CTARNG NCO of the Year 2006) both from the 1109th AVCRAD will represent the Connecticut Army National Guard Enlisted Soldiers proudly at the competition. Let this act as a reminder for units to motivate and prepare Soldiers and NCOs for the CTARNG Soldier and NCO of the Year Board in February 2007. Unit First Sergeants and Battalion Command Sergeants Major should

encourage all their Soldiers and NCOs to participate in the competition at the Unit, Battalion and MACOM level. Leaders, do not wait until October through January time frame to begin the process of preparing and boarding your Soldiers.

As the Connecticut National Guard prepares to enter into the Annual Training cycle, I ask all leaders to make "SAFETY" your top priority. Our Airmen and Soldiers deserve to receive the best realistic training there is to offer but at the same time, safety is paramount to successful and meaningful training. Risk Assessment is an integral part of training. Risk Assessment must be included for every training event.

The Connecticut Army National Guard has two newly selected Battalion Command Sergeants Major selected by the spring CSM Selection Board at NGB. Congratulations to Command Sgt. Maj. William Chapman (192nd Chemical Battalion) and Command Sgt. Maj. John Stone (143rd Forward Support Battalion). They have reached the pinnacle of the enlisted rank and I am confident they will meet the every day challenges facing their positions. The best advice I can give is, listen to your Soldiers and give them the same respect that you expect from them.

The Connecticut Army National Guard continues to prepare for and deploy our Soldiers to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers from the 143rd Forward Support Battalion, 134th Military Police Company and the 1048th Medium Truck Company are all training and preparing for Mobilization and Deployment. Please keep them, and all the currently deployed Soldiers and Airmen in your thoughts every day until they all return home safe to their loved ones.

Letters to the Editor

A letter to the Connecticut National Guard senior NCOs

On Saturday, March 25, 2006, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) held its annual conference. Although the attendance was up from last year, it was still a poor showing for Senior NCO's in our Guard.

Active ARNG Senior NCOs in attendance were Command Sgt. Maj. Zastaury, Command Sgt. Maj. Aparo, Sgt. Maj. Orlando Anderson, Sgt. Maj. Tom Donlon and Master Sgt. Rueben Garcia. Retired Senior NCOs in attendance were Command Sgt. Maj. Skowronski, Sgt. Maj. Danao and myself. The Air Guard was represented by Command Chief Master Sgt. Wawruck, and forgive me for not remembering their ranks, Al and Juanita Hunt and the names of a handful of other Air Guard NCOs. With the exception of those Army and Air members deployed, you had no excuse not to be there.

The poor showing by enlisted members of the Army and Air Guard is a disgrace. Our Association is trying to get more benefits and maintain those we have. If we don't fix this problem, we will be faced with not so happy future results.

The poor showing of our enlisted retirees is also a disgrace. You were the recipients of some of the benefits that our Association obtained when you were active. Can't you support our Association to help our replacements?

Again, the Association meeting included four State of Connecticut Representatives. They made time to attend. Why couldn't our Noncommissioned Officer Corps?

I will forever state that senior NCOs are responsible for the welfare of your Soldiers and Airmen. You need to get involved! You need to support our Association. Are you a member? If that answer is no, then you need to do some soul searching.

Numbers of Association members is a critical

element in lobbying our State Legislature or our Congress for benefits. Our Association should have 100 percent enrolled. You, as Senior NCOs, should insure that all your subordinates become members of NGACT and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). Total cost of membership for both organizations is \$15.00 per year. That is just about the cost of a case of beer! Would you rather have a case of beer or obtain benefits for yourselves and your Soldiers and Airmen?

Again I highly urge and plead for all seniors NCOs to join now! I highly urge senior NCOs to get their Soldiers and Airmen to join now!

REMEMBER – (and this is a repeat of one of my last letters) Our future, and in some cases, our past benefits are in jeopardy. You and only you can change that by getting involved and supporting both the NGACT and EANGUS...DO IT NOW!

On a positive note, I want to commend Past President Bill Cusack and newly elected President Debbi Newton for all their hard work. These two individuals were mostly instrumental for obtaining new State legislation which benefits our Guard and all other services. They spent countless hours at the Legislature lobbying for our benefits. They have taken a positive step in helping rebuild NGACT. They make me proud! If you see them, you should say "Thanks!"

I extend to our new President, Debbi Newton, the best of luck in running our Association and as always, offer any assistance I can render.

ANTHONY V. SAVINO
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RETIRED)

Family sends heartfelt thank you

To our National Guard Family and Friends:

Words cannot even begin to express the gratitude we feel for the outpouring of sympathy, concern, love and support you have shown our family since the passing of our son, brother and father, Bobby.



His death was as sudden and shocking to us as it was to you, but the strength of your friendship and support gave us the strength to get through the extremely tough days that followed.

From those who didn't give up when they realized something was wrong, to those who helped us with the paperwork to those who arranged for a bus to bring people to the funeral; from those who sent cards and fruit baskets to those who arranged for the reception in Bobby's honor at the Officer's Club after the funeral, thank you.

We've all heard it said so often, that it has become cliché, but the Guard really is family, and we thank you all for being part of our family, for being part of Bobby's family.

You will hold a special place in our hearts. Thank you.

THE FRANCO FAMILY

Visit the
**Connecticut
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on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Send Letters to the Editor to:

Editor, Connecticut Guardian, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795

or by email to: ctguardian@ct.ngb.army.mil

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.

Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling and space, but not for content.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Youth and Gambling: What everyone needs to know*

MASTER SGT. MELISSA LUGINBUHL
DDR NCO

Gambling has become mainstream, accepted and glamorized. It is increasingly popular among all age groups, including youth. Some forms of gambling have become a "rite of passage" for adolescents. Research has consistently suggested that young people experience problems with gambling more frequently than adults do.

What can adults do?

Don't minimize the seriousness of youth gambling

- Rates of moderate to severe problem gambling for youth are more than twice that of adults.
- Adolescent problem gamblers remain at increased risk for the development of other addictions or multiple addictions.
- Adolescent problem gamblers have higher rates of depression than adolescent social gamblers or non-gamblers do.
- Adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 with serious gambling problems are at heightened risk for suicide ideation and suicide attempts.

Share these messages with young people

- The choice to abstain from gambling as a lifelong practice is a legitimate choice that many people make.
- We do not want you to ever gamble illegally. (In Connecticut a person must be 21 to gamble at a casino and 18 to purchase a lottery ticket.)
- If you choose to gamble, we want you to know enough about gambling to lower your risk of gambling problems.

Model appropriate attitudes and behaviors

- If you gamble, treat it as a form of entertainment that has a cost you have thought about in advance, and that you are prepared to pay both financially and emotionally.
- Don't glamorize gambling. Be realistic. There are winners and losers, and almost all people are losers in the long run.
- Don't brag about winning or misrepresent the true cost of gambling.
- Don't involve young people in adult gambling activities.

Setting Personal Guidelines

- There are certain high-risk situations

during which gambling should be avoided:

When feeling lonely, angry, depressed, or under stress

When coping with the death or loss of a loved one

When trying to solve any personal or family problems

When trying to impress others

When using alcohol or any other drug

• There are times when people should not gamble:

When the gambling activity is illegal

When the gambling interferes with one's school, work, or family responsibilities

When in recovery for another addiction

When gambling is prohibited by school or work policy

When trying to make up for a gambling loss

What to do if you are concerned about your gambling or the gambling of someone you care about:

Call toll-free, 24 hour, confidential Helpline:
800-346-6238

Education Essentials

Credit-By-Exam:

Possibly the best education deal in town!

Are you too busy or broke to get your education? Do you hate the thought of sitting in a classroom for hours at a time? Are you concerned about getting transferred or deployed in the middle of a course?

If you answered yes to any of these questions and you are currently serving on Active Duty, the National Guard, or Reserve, then you should consider using DANTES's Credit-by-Exam program to get college credit without cost, or classroom time.

The DANTES Credit-by-Exam program:
Saves Money - An average college course can cost you over \$100 per credit. Through DANTES, Credit-by-Exam tests are free.

Saves Time - The average college course takes from 3 to 6 hours a week spread out over three or more months.

Depending on your depth of knowledge, you could spend less than a month preparing for each test. Gets you ahead - Why spend time and money on boring freshman level courses when you can jump up to the more interesting advanced courses.

Study Groups - Find a group of people at your unit with like goals and study together on lunch breaks. This is commonly referred to as "Brown Bag Universities."

Flexibility - You can set your own deadlines and choose your own study materials: videos, college textbooks, or study guides.

College Enrollment Not Required - Unlike taking college courses, you don't have to be enrolled in college to take these exams, and you choose when to take.

DANTES "Credit-By-Exam" program gives you the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses.

More than 2,900 colleges grant credit for CLEP (College Level Examination Program), DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests), ECE (Excelsior College Exam) and ACT (American College Test) examinations. CLEP (College Level Examination Program)

Although CLEP paper-based exams have been all but phased out, the 14 most popular tests will return in paper-based form in April. CLEP Exams are divided into General and Subject Examinations. The General Examinations are based on Freshman Level Arts and Sciences courses and are worth up to 6 Semester Units each. The CLEP Subject Examinations are lower and upper level and can be worth from 3 to 12 units each.

(Editor's Note: See the May issue of the Guardian for more on DANTES and CLEP)

Chaplain's

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CHAPLAIN DAVID NUTT

As a Chaplain, I get lots of "God" questions.

The most common variant is "Who (or what) is God?"

How you answer the question depends a lot on your own personal faith and culture you've grown up in. A Japanese Buddhist will have a very different answer to the question than a European who was raised Catholic. My response of who God is as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, may differ from a colleague who is Presbyterian. While Judaism, Christianity and Islam support the claim they all worship the same God, God's character is revealed differently in the practice of each religion.

So, is there anything everyone can agree on? Humans as a race love to disagree so the answer is a firm "no." However, there are characteristics of God that most believers in God can agree on.

Existence of God— Everything that has a beginning needs a cause for its being; this includes not only the physical universe, but also the space/time dimension in which we function. A created thing cannot create itself, so it follows that there must exist a first cause, an uncaused cause, that is

responsible for everything that has come into being. The uncaused cause could not have come into being, but instead would have to be self-existent. God is the uncaused cause — the *self-existent* being through which all that has a beginning has come into existence

Eternal— This refers to God having no beginning or end. Humans are finite creatures trapped in a space-time existence; we are not capable of comprehending something that is infinite. God is infinite. God is not bound by space and time — God created space and time, and exists independent of it.

God is Holy. —Holiness means that God is pure — both in thought and in action. In Him there is not even the possibility of doing evil. Secondly, holiness means that God transcends all creation; He is infinite, as we are finite.

God is self-sufficient — He does not need humans. God does not need any of the things He has created. His existence is not dependent upon His creation, but rather, the creation is totally dependent upon the creator.

God is omnipotent — He has total power and control over His creation. Does this mean that God can do anything? No. God cannot do something that violates His nature, or that results in a logical contradiction. For example, God cannot lie; nor can God force one of His creatures to love Him since, by definition, love

GOD 101

is something that cannot be forced.

God is omnipresent. —Omnipresence refers to God's ability to be fully present everywhere at all times. God exists independent of His creation — time and space are part of that creation

God is omniscient. —God has full knowledge of all aspects of His creation; His knowledge is absolute.

By now it should be clear that God cannot be viewed in an anthropomorphic sense. Though many traditions' Holy Scriptures often refer to God in the masculine (Father, Him, His, etc.), this is not to be taken literally. God is no more a man (or woman) than God is an eggplant or a wildebeest.

Humans need to use typology to convey God's divine attributes. Humans need a way as finite beings to grasp the fullness of who God is and what God requires and as such need to use terms to approach a better understanding.

Moreover, for the believer, there needs to be a way to talk about their relationship with the Divine. Each and everyone who believes in God has access to the discussion and an opportunity to enter a relationship with the Divine. How you meet God and understand God—that depends upon *you*.

May you find God and the peace that passes all understanding.

Veterans' Assistance

Connecticut
Military, Spouses,
Dependents,
Retirees and DOD
employees!!!!

DANIEL J. McHALE
STATE BENEFITS ADVISORS-CT

Here are some pressing issues that may need you attention:

- **TAXES:** Only a few more days until April 15th. As a reminder, some towns insist on an annual update to vaildate compensatable disabilities for tax purposes. If you are drawing compensation for a disability and your town requires an abatement letter to off set your taxes for 2005 and if you don't have the original VA FORM 20-5455, you can get an equivalent letter from the VA by calling 1-800-827-1000 and ask for the "tax letter".

I'm here to serve you and your families. If you have any questions or issues, please don't hesitate to call me in Room 214, 360 Broad Street, Hartford CT. 06105 Cell-860-748-0037 Work 860-524-4908 Fax: 860-548-3288 (SKYLINE Ultd, Inc.)

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD East Granby TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed UTAs: Open Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00 Phone: (860) 653-6994	CAMP RELL POST EXCHANGE MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 739-9672	WEST POINT, NEW YORK Exchange Hours: SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 Phone: (914) 446-5406 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 FRIDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00	SUB BASE, NEW LONDON Exchange Hours: MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 694-3811 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
COAST GUARD STATION 120 Woodward Avenue New Haven, CT MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 4:30 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (203) 468-2712	COAST GUARD ACADEMY New London MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (860) 444-8488		



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Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Creating environment for Management Controls*

OC JOSEPH E. BROOKS
MANAGEMENT CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR

The simple fact is that everyone in an organization has a responsibility to ensure that management controls are in place and are functioning to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. As a Soldier in the Connecticut National Guard it is your responsibility to ensure that equipment and funds are being used properly and the organization is protected from waste and fraud.

The Connecticut Army National Guard Management Control Program (CTARNG-MCP) is specifically designed to foster an environment where the manager will not "shoot the messenger" for bad news. The focus of the program is to root out problems where they exist and bring them to the attention of an Assessable Unit Manager (AUM).

The CTARNG-MCP is designed to ensure that all Army programs are evaluated a minimum of once every five years. Many programs are evaluated more often based on the amount of risk for waste, fraud and abuse associated with the execution of the program and the intended goals. This standard for the frequency of the review is derived by the Management Control Administrator for the state.

Each year a colonel or lieutenant colonel is assigned as the AUM for his or her

particular assessable unit. Connecticut has eighteen assessable units with an AUM who is responsible for ensuring that controls are properly in place. These AUMs are responsible for ensuring that the proper unit climate exists where problems can be identified and corrected before they become a hazard to the organization.

Each year the AUM has to submit an Annual Assurance Statement (AAS) to the adjutant general assuring that proper controls are in place. The AAS provides; 1) reasonable assurance that management controls are in place, 2) reports weaknesses and the actions being taken to correct them and 3) reports of material weaknesses which cannot be fixed by the AUM or the section.

So what are management controls? Every time you have to sign a form before opening a safe, or go through proper procedures to safeguard classified materials or ensure that funds balance and that employees are being paid properly; that is a management control. Management Controls are all the little steps that are taken on a daily basis to ensure that your section is running properly and they are also complicated and time intensive audits that are conducted to ensure that the organization functions as it should.

There are three different types of controls that are in place right now in your workplace: preventative, detective and corrective

controls.

Preventive controls are in place to keep things from going wrong, such as two persons having half of a safe combination to deter theft.

Detective controls are in place to detect a problem when it occurs such as during audits or inventories of equipment to ensure that all equipment is present and working properly. Corrective controls are in place to fix identified errors such follow up audits and system maintenance.

So which control is most important? Inevitably the most important control is the one that you do not perform. All of these controls work together to keep the organization running smoothly. The management control that you overlook or don't perform because you "don't have time for it" is the control that will one day save you and your organization from incredible loss.

AUMs: remember don't shoot the messenger when you receive bad news because the problem that you don't know about is more dangerous than problem which has been identified. Likewise, employees should remember that the management control that you overlook today could be the one that costs you your job tomorrow.



NGACT: Working for you



Well, another annual conference and awards banquet has come and gone and we are pleased to announce that this year's attendance at both events was better than it has been in recent years.

That does not, however, mean we are satisfied. We're not. It's a good start to double your attendance, but not so great when you realize that doubling still didn't bring attendance over the 100-person mark for either event.

Here's our challenge to all who attended this year...bring one person with you next year that was not there this year. Can't be any more simple than that...can it? Is there a person out there who can't meet that challenge?

Despite the still low turnout, we had a great conference. Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, State Representatives Len Greene, Linda Orange and Ted Graziani spoke during the conference. Ted was our keynote speaker and Len and Linda surprised all in attendance by presenting outgoing NGACT President Bill Cusack and incoming NGACT President Debbi Newton with Official Citations from the Connecticut General Assembly for their hard work and efforts on behalf of the members of the NGACT and the Connecticut National Guard.

Other speakers during the day included Frank Yoakum, the Enlisted Association of the United States Legislative Coordinator, and Frank Hotaling and Tom Quinn, EANGUS Area 1 Directors. NGACT committee chairs also gave their annual reports.

Several positions on the Executive Board were up for election this year and the following is your 2006-2007 Executive Board:

President: Debbi Newton
President-Elect: Ralph Hedenberg
Secretary: Juanita Hunt
Treasurer: David Fecso
Army Officer: Jerry Lukowski
Army Enlisted: David Nastri
Army-at-Large: Charlie Jaworski
Army-at-Large: Michael Straite
Army Junior Enlisted: Jennifer Hollis
Air Officer: Vacant
Air Enlisted: Al Hunt
Air-at-Large: Daniel Scace
Air-at-Large: Jack Swift
Air Junior Enlisted: Vacant
Retiree: John Bednarz

If anyone is interested in either of the two vacant Air Guard positions, please contact us at ngact2005@yahoo.com

We also were honored to have State Representative Roger Michele as our banquet keynote speaker. Roger is co-chair of the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. (See next month's Guardian for more on the awards banquet.)



WAYNE E. TRAVERS JR.
CTESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
WAYNE.E.TRAVERS@US.ARMY.MIL

Where credit is due: Recognizing exemplary employers

component, ESGR has its own version of "colored ribbon" in its awards program.

The ESGR awards program is designed to recognize employers for employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve. All employer recognition and awards originate from nominations by individual Reserve component members and include:

- **"Patriot Award" Certificate of Appreciation**, which is accompanied by a Patriot lapel pin presented on behalf of the Department of Defense.

- **ESGR Committee Chair's Award**, which is given in limited numbers and presented annually by each ESGR Committee to recognize those employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave for military duty.

- **PRO PATRIA Award**, which is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. Each ESGR

committee may give only one PRO PATRIA annually.

- **Employer Support Freedom Awards**, which are presented annually to an employer by the Secretary of Defense to recognize unique support to National Guard and Reserve employees. The nation's most supportive employers receive the awards at a ceremony held annually in November.

Employers qualify for recognition when they practice personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve. The easiest way to nominate an employer is to use the "Patriot Award Form" form at www.esgr.com.

With the online process, the nomination arrives at National ESGR Headquarters at the speed of a mouse click. Nominating service members should also print a copy of the nomination for their own records.

Copies of the nomination form can also be obtained from the Connecticut ESGR Committee or the National ESGR Headquarters or by using ESGR's toll-free number - (800) 336-4590.



Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "A Soldier will fight long and hard for a bit of colored ribbon," and although we know our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines fight for much more than just military decorations, recognizing exemplary service is very important.

To recognize those employers who go "above and beyond" for their employees who serve in the reserve

Inside OCS

Step out of your comfort zone

OC ISAAC MILLER JR.
OCS CLASS 51

There are many reasons why we joined the military. For some it's to protect and serve our country's borders. For others, it may be financial reasons.

For myself, I joined because I wanted more discipline in my life.

Yeah, discipline. I know what you're probably thinking, "Why the Army National Guard?", "Why OCS?" Well, my reasons may be of no value to you, but to me, they meant everything.

It meant doing something I've always wanted to do and that is become an officer in the military. It meant stepping out of what I normally do as an individual and becoming a part of a great organization here in Connecticut.

I was undisciplined in many ways and I felt myself unraveling as a man. I really didn't know who to turn to for guidance and direction. I became curious about joining the Guard and my conscience wouldn't let me rest until I found something that would calm me down.

When I first signed up for the military, I thought to myself, how cool it would be to be an officer in the Connecticut Army National Guard. But then, something happened from the moment I got back from BCT to the time I arrived at Phase I training. I looked like a Soldier, but I didn't know anything about the Army. I was completely out of my element as a man and as a Soldier.

I wasn't use to doing everything wrong and I mean everything. Information was coming at me whether I wanted it or not and it was up to me to accept it or get rid of it. I was a sponge soaking up all the information I could and when it came time

for me to swim with the dolphins, I sank to bottom.

I didn't know what it took mentally to be an officer. I didn't know how to answer questions directed towards me. I was out of my comfort zone. Everything to me was not right. I didn't know what to filter out and what to keep in and hone as my own, from taking orders to land navigation to receiving and writing my own OPODs. Everything was difficult to grasp and understand.

I realized that I wasn't in Kansas anymore. I came to the realization that I if wanted to become an officer in the CTARNG, I was going to have to give 150 percent because I didn't know anything.

Little mistakes became big mistakes very easily. I also realized that there aren't any comfort zones in OCS. Your situations at OCS are made to make you think under pressure: where deadlines have to be met and time is of the essence. Decisions have to be made and it requires you to think in your sleep - well if you can get sleep.

The TAC staff wants you to be ready for anything and their reasons for taking you out of your comfort zone is to get you combat ready, not only for the battlefield, but in life.

I have to admit, everything I'm involved with has a military style of discipline to it. I can't say that everyone understands my reasons for joining OCS, but OCS has changed my life, because the TAC staff has pushed me to do things proficiently and in a disciplined manner.

They've helped to me to understand what it takes to be an officer and it's not easy by any stretch of the imagination. I promise this, when you come out of the fire of OCS training, you can be sure that you will never look at yourself the same again.

Do you have what it takes
to take your career to the next level?



1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Regiment
(LDR)

Officer Candidate School
Information Briefs:

DATES

22 APR 06

20 MAY 06

24 JUN 06

22 JUL 06

19 AUG 06

Bring a Friend, Spouse or Significant Other.
Information Brief will be in Building 402,
Leadership Hall, beginning at 1000 hours

For more information contact

1LT Shaun O'Dea (860) 691-4216

OCSCT@ct.ngb.army.mil



Why Diversity?

Connecticut National Guard Participates in Dept. of Veterans' Affairs Womens' History Month Celebration

On Friday, March 17th, the Connecticut National Guard participated in the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs program, "Celebrating Connecticut Women Who Served in the Armed Forces." This event was attended by more than 250 people who came together in celebration of Connecticut's women veterans.

The year 2006 marked a return to the tradition of the Conn. Department of Veterans' Affairs hosting an annual event to honor Conn. women veterans throughout the state. Presently, more than 14,500 women living in Conn. have proudly served in the military. Led by Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Linda S. Schwartz, the Connecticut Women Veterans' Annual Reunion was held at the State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill, Conn.

In addition to the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs and Connecticut National Guard, participating organizations included the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Connecticut Community Colleges, United States Post Office, and the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs Women's Health Center.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs recognizes the fact that women comprise a large portion of the National Guard and Reserve Force and put together the program with a special focus on outreach to them. Information centered on special health concerns, post deployment programs, and healthy living.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell was present to thank women veterans for their great service and provide the event's opening remarks. Rell's remarks were followed by the presentation of colors by the 103rd Fighter Wing's Honor

Guard. Honor Guard members were Tech. Sgt. Carey Gauld from the 103rd Maintenance Group, Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Pilletere, 103rd Services Flight, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Blanda from the 103rd Medical Group.

Program highlights included a musical tribute to past and present women veterans, information tables pertaining to services and programs available to women veterans, remarks by state dignitaries, and keynote speaker Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Wilma L. Vaught. Vaught serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

The program concluded with a panel discussion centered on the current role of women in the military. This panel featured Connecticut National Guard members, Capt. Dawn Works, Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Tate, Tech. Sgt. Elsa Hernandez and Sgt. Tanya Williams.



Jeanne Schoen, US Navy (Ret.), Brig. Gen. (Ret.) USAF Wilma L. Vaught, and Dept. of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, Maj. (Ret.) USAF Linda S. Schwartz during the Rocky Hill Veterans Home Women's History celebration March 17. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds)

All women have deployed in support of various operations. They provided the audience with information on their individual deployments and answered questions. Also on the panel were Mary Kelley and Rose McCarthy, female veterans who served during World War II.

Health & Fitness



Medical Notes

LT. COL. ROBERT CODY
SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH MANAGER

The human foot can be compared to a finely tuned machine with its amazing design and structure. And like a machine, the foot is complex, containing within its relatively small size 26 bones (the two feet contain a quarter of all the bones in the body), 33 joints, and a network of more than 100 tendons, muscles, and ligaments, to say nothing of blood vessels and nerves.

Foot ailments are among the most common of our health problems. Studies show that 75 percent of Americans experience foot problems of a greater or lesser degree of seriousness at some time in their lives. April is National Foot Health month and the focus of this month's article is on the common ills that effect our feet and how to care for them.

Athlete's foot is a skin disease, usually starting between the toes or on the bottom of the feet, which can spread to other parts of the body. It is caused by a fungus that commonly attacks the feet, because the wearing of shoes and hosiery fosters fungus growth. The signs of athlete's foot are dry scaly skin, itching, inflammation, and blisters. You can help prevent infection by



Foot Health

washing your feet daily with soap and warm water; drying carefully, especially between the toes; and changing shoes and hose regularly to decrease moisture.

Blisters are caused by skin friction. Don't pop them. Apply moleskin or an adhesive bandage over a blister, and leave it on until it falls off naturally in the bath or shower. Keep your feet dry and always wear socks as a cushion between your feet and shoes. If a blister breaks on its own, wash the area, apply an antiseptic, and cover with a sterile bandage.

Foot odor results from excessive perspiration from the more than 250,000 sweat glands in the foot. Daily hygiene is essential. Change your shoes daily to let each pair air out, and change your socks, perhaps even more frequently than daily. Foot powders and antiperspirants, and soaking in vinegar and water, can help lessen odor.

Ingrown nails are nails whose corners or sides dig painfully into the skin, often causing infection. They are frequently caused by improper nail trimming, but also by shoe pressure, injury, fungus infection, heredity, and poor foot structure.

Top Ten Foot Health Tips

Diseases, disorders and disabilities of the foot or ankle affect the quality of life and

mobility of millions of Americans. However, the general public and even many physicians are unaware of the important relationship between foot health and overall health and well-being. With this in mind, the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) would like to share a few tips to help keep feet healthy.

1. Don't ignore foot pain—it's not normal. If the pain persists, see a podiatric physician.

2. Inspect your feet regularly. Pay attention to changes in color and temperature of your feet. Look for thick or discolored nails (a sign of developing fungus), and check for cracks or cuts in the skin. Peeling or scaling on the soles of feet could indicate athlete's foot. Any growth on the foot is not considered normal.

3. Wash your feet regularly, especially between the toes, and be sure to dry them completely.

4. Trim toenails straight across, but not too short. Be careful not to cut nails in corners or on the sides; it can lead to ingrown toenails. Persons with diabetes, poor circulation or heart problems should not treat their own feet because they are



more prone to infection.

5. Make sure that your shoes fit properly. Purchase new shoes later in the day when feet tend to be at their largest and replace worn out shoes as soon as possible.

6. Select and wear the right shoe for the activity that you are engaged in (i.e. running shoes for running).

7. Alternate shoes—don't wear the same pair of shoes every day.

8. Avoid walking barefooted—your feet will be more prone to injury and infection. At the beach or when wearing sandals always use sunblock on your feet as the rest of your body.

9. Be cautious when using home remedies for foot ailments; self-treatment can often turn a minor problem into a major one.

10. If you are a person with diabetes it is vital that you see a podiatric physician at least once a year for a check-up.

The information in this article is from the American Podiatric Medical Association's website and is used with their permission. For more information visit their website at <http://www.apma.org>.

Combating Substance Abuse: Health – Safety – Life

CW4 TONY UVA
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFICER

Addictions control our lives. The Connecticut National Guard Substance Abuse Education programs are designed to give soldiers the tools and materials to control their actions when it really counts. One of the very first addictions facing people today is alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Alcoholism is a medical disease. It is a dependency on alcohol characterized by craving (a strong need to drink), loss of control (being unable to stop drinking despite a desire to do so), physical dependence, withdrawal symptoms, and tolerance (increasing difficulty of becoming drunk) in spite of adverse consequences distorted thinking, especially denial. Alcoholism stems from genetic, environmental, and psychosocial factors. A high percentage of alcoholics have a genetic predisposition to the disease, although genetic predisposition can be overcome. Genetics are risk factors, not a destiny. People with the disease of alcoholism often need treatment, counseling or medical attention to learn how to stop drinking and to live a healthier life.

Alcohol Abuse is also a serious medical and social problem, but is not the same as alcoholism. Alcohol abuse is the intentional

overuse of alcohol to the point of drunkenness. This includes the occasional and celebratory over-drinker. Not all people who abuse alcohol become alcoholics, but alcohol abuse by itself can have serious medical effects. Overuse of alcohol is considered to be more than 3-4 drinks per occasion for women and more than 4-5 drinks per occasion for men. One drink equals one (12-ounce) bottle of beer or wine cooler, one (5-ounce) glass of wine, or one and a half ounces of liquor.

Substance Abuse refers to the overindulgence in and dependence on a stimulant, depressant, chemical substance, herb (plant) or fungus leading to effects that are detrimental to the individual's physical or mental health or the welfare of others. It also manifests a pattern of continued pathological use of a medication of non-medically indicated drug or toxin. Results often cause adverse social consequences related to the use, such as failure to meet work, family or school obligations, interpersonal conflicts, or legal problems. Substance abuse may lead to addiction or substance dependence.

Alcohol and drugs pose special problems to organizations. In an environment where drinking is common, so are substance-related legal offense and injuries. Illegal drugs, underage possession of alcohol and drunk driving can bring fines and jail time. Fights,

sexual assault, and injuries are more likely to happen when one has been drinking or doing drugs. One third of people who die in drunken driving crashes are under 25 years old, and it is the leading cause of death among young people. Many people have preconceived ideas of what an alcoholic or addict is, and most people don't associate that image with themselves. Being an occasional and celebratory drinker doesn't protect you from addiction, responsible behavior does.

Using alcohol and other drugs carries risks. Alcohol and drugs impair your judgment, making you more likely to hurt yourself or others, to have trouble with the law, to do poorly at work and school, and to have relationship trouble. Alcohol and drugs also have specific health risks: they can damage major organs, increase your risk of cancers, and even cause death.

You can find many kinds of help for substance abuse problems. Help can come from formal institutions or organizations or it can come from an informal support network. The degree of help may depend on the kind of substance problem. An addicted person's goal should be abstinence, or non-use of the substance. A person who is not yet addicted but has problems stemming from use may only need to change the way that they consume, that

is, stop abusing the substance. However, any substance abusing person should stop drinking or using drugs or alcohol entirely. Agencies and organizations that specialize in helping with addiction problems can be found on computer web sites, telephone books or they can be reached by calling a local health/mental health center. Private organizations that specialize in substance abuse treatment may also be found in the yellow pages of your local phone directory. A local hospital can also provide effective help. Kinds of help and helping agencies vary from area to area. Many people who seek help for a substance abuse problem meet with success and go on to live happy and productive lives. With the right program and support any person can be successful in working through this.

If you feel that you or some other military member is in need of substance education or treatment, please contact your chain of command for guidance.

**Call the
Handyperson Hotline
today to volunteer
your skills
(860) 209-0770**

Commentary

Respect, the tie that binds the NCO corps

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — The transition to noncommissioned officer, and later, to senior noncommissioned officer can be a daunting experience for any Airman, but Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command's command chief, has words of advice for those who make the journey.

The key to success, Chief Popp says, is respect — not only earning it and keeping it, but also understanding the fundamentals behind the word itself. It's a message he delivers regularly to new NCOs and SNCOs:

R = responsibility

Winston Churchill once said, "The price of greatness is responsibility." The "r" in the word "respect" stands for responsibility. As an NCO in the world's greatest air and space force, we expect you to stand up and step up to your responsibilities," the chief said. "It is your responsibility to ensure the Airmen are housed properly, trained properly, equipped properly and ready to deploy to carry out the mission."

E = example

"What you do speaks so loudly, your Airmen may not hear what you're saying," the chief said. Gen. George S. Patton once said, "Troops, you're always on parade!"

"You're an example to your fellow Airmen when you're in the shoppette Saturday night when you've got your earring in and are purchasing those three cases of beer. You're an example to your fellow Americans when you deploy to fight the hurricanes, floods, or forest fires," Popp said. "And you're an example when you wear this uniform overseas, driving that convoy or working at the Camp Bucca Internment Center. To earn respect, you must set the right example."

S = standards

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything! If you don't enforce the standards, then who will? Never, never, never apologize for enforcing our high standards. When we don't enforce the technical orders, the Air Force Instructions, the general orders — equipment gets wrecked, people's lives are placed in jeopardy, and our fight to win the global war on terror gets set back. To earn respect, you must stand up and enforce the standards.

P = performance

There is no second place in war; you either win or you lose. NCOs are responsible for their individual performance, their team's performance and the overall outcome of the

mission. This war on terrorism is much bigger than Iraq or Afghanistan. When you put on our team's jersey, this is a joint fight — that's why it says, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines.

Many NCOs now are familiar with 15 straight years of deployments to Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As we move ahead, we will be asking all Airmen to step up and perform at 100 percent of their ability. To earn respect, you must continue to perform.

E = evaluate

How do you evaluate those daily crisis' issues and problems brought to you?

I believe every NCO shows up to these fiery situations with a bucket in each hand. In the left is a bucket of water and in the right is a bucket of gasoline," the chief said. "Which one do you use? The water to extinguish the situation or the gasoline to get it roaring out of control? I challenge NCOs to get the facts before they use either bucket — evaluate the situation before you empty one of those buckets. To earn respect, you must evaluate before you take action.

C = communications

I have found that Airmen are always down

on what they are not up on. How well do you share the 'big picture' with your Airmen? How well do you provide your performance expectations to your Airmen? Do you share: the who, the where, the when and most importantly the why with them? To earn respect, you must keep the lines of communications open.

T = Taking care of Airmen

Your Airmen do not care how much you know — until they know how much you care about them!

If I asked you to tell me about your top three performing Airmen, could you? Could you tell me the: date they arrived on station, their family status, hobbies, goals, their career development course score or their physical training score? Could you tell me what they did last weekend?

Sadly, what I routinely find across our Air Force are supervisors who can only tell me these things after a suicide, a fatality, or serious accident has occurred.

To earn respect, you must know and take care of your Airmen.

MASTER SGT. MARK HAVILAND
AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I report to my boss, I work for my people

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFPN) — I report to my boss, but I work for my people.

Before you think, "I wouldn't have said that if I were her," hear me out.

This phrase is about taking care of people and being a selfless leader. When I walk through my door every morning, I'm not thinking about what I can do to impress my boss but what I can do to help my people.

Does it mean my boss doesn't matter? Of course not! I am still responsible to him, I still answer to him and I still need to keep him informed. However, I don't exert all of my energy on him. I save it for my people. I take care of them, they take care of me and I can take care of my boss.

So what does it mean when I say "I work for my people"?

It means that whenever I do anything, it is to help them out. When I review enlisted performance reports and officer performance reports, I put an equal amount of time and effort into all of them no matter what the ratee's rank. When I review award packages, I make sure it is the best submission possible and we are recognizing the right people.

When I discipline people, I make sure it is fair, equitable and appropriate. I set standards and expect my people to follow them. When people want to talk, I make time for them and listen to what they have to say. I speak my mind even if I don't tell them what they want to hear.

I try to make things fun, even commander's calls and staff meetings. I give people honest feedback and I take theirs in return. I let them know what I expect, when they've done well, when they haven't quite hit the mark and what they need to do to improve. I let people do their jobs and trust them until they give me a reason not to.

Most importantly, I genuinely care about their well being and try

to convey that in everything I do. The minute this seems phony, I lose credibility.

Now, about my boss. Don't get me wrong; My boss is very important and I don't mean to belittle him in anyway. After all, he signs my report and if he really wanted to he could make my life miserable. My point is I do not show up to work every day trying to impress him.

The energy I spend doing that takes away from the energy I could be spending helping my people succeed. If I take care of my people, they will get the job done, and the more professionally satisfied they are, the better they will perform. The better they perform, the better I am fulfilling my responsibilities to my boss.

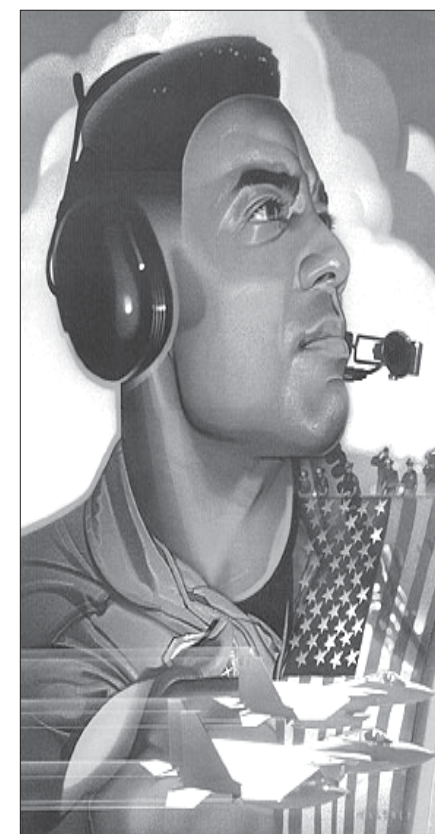
They are taking care of me by enabling me to take care of my boss. If my boss notices, that's great! If not, my reward is in knowing my people are taken care of, motivated to show up to work every day and doing their best.

To me, all the recognition in the world is worthless if I am making my people miserable in the process.

Maybe it just boils down to priorities. I feel an effective leader thinks "people first," not "me first." Good leaders take care of their people because they know their people will take care of them. When their people take care of them, leaders can take care of their bosses. Good bosses will see this quality and in turn take care of the leader. Pretty neat how that all works out!

Selfless leadership has worked for me. Maybe it will work for you!

MAJ. THERESA HUMPHREY
355TH MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS SQUADRON COMMANDER



INFORMATION

Security Begins With You!

The success of America's campaign against terrorism depends on you. Don't help America's enemies plan another attack. Use secure communications when discussing classified or sensitive information. Handle and discard emails, documents, correspondence and emails appropriately. Practice good computer security when accessing the Internet. Our enemies are all the eyes we've encountered before. Don't let them see with information that can harm us.



Retirees' Voice

Keeping up with news, friends: Good & bad

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

The Military Coalition of Veterans organizations is working hard at getting Congress to reject the administrations proposals to significantly increase fees and co-pays in both TRICARE and VA health care. As a result, new legislation has been introduced to block the Pentagon's plan. Representatives Chet Edwards (D-TEX) and Walter Jones (R-NC) along with 49 original co-sponsors introduced H. R. 4949, The Military Retirees' Healthcare Protection Act. As of now there are 64 co-sponsors. Now it's our turn to urge our Representatives to co-sponsor and support this bill and get it passed into law.

An interesting article came to my attention the other day. It seems that last July the Federal Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) had ruled that Government Workers who served in the Military Reserves and National Guard may have been erroneously charged military leave for weekends and

holidays and those who served in the reserve between 1994 and 2000 were eligible for compensation for the mistakenly charged leave. I was happy for those who would gain by that, but since I retired in 1993, I was not eligible. Well, the MSPB has recently issued a ruling pushing the date back to 1980. Now I need to learn how to file a claim.

My wife and I just returned with some mixed feelings from a trip to Florida to attend the 'Retirees of Florida' annual get together in Orlando and the 4th Nike Missile Veterans reunion held in Kissimmee right after that. The road trip, down and back was pleasant. We stayed at military installations as we slowly made our way. One of our stops was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where we were able to look up at least one member of the 102nd Infantry unit currently there to train up for their deployment to Afghanistan.

The unit is housed in an area of (you guessed it) World War II barracks. Why am I not surprised?

Another stop was at King's Bay Submarine

Base on the Florida/Georgia state line. This was our first time there. It is not far from I-95 and is easy to get in and out of, and, unlike Jacksonville Naval Air Station nearby, it is usually available.

It was great to see all of the people in attendance at these functions and the scheduled programs and events were outstanding. The committees that planned and executed both of these events did an outstanding job and we thank them for their efforts. The weather was beautiful and it was a pleasure to walk around in shirtsleeves. At the Nike reunion we had a nice surprise, an unexpected visitor from one of our field artillery units who happened to be in the area.

On the downside, it was sad to hear that many of the people who planned to attend were unable to, due to illness or injury and other emergencies. To make it even worse we received bad news of three friends who passed away and a fourth who was hospitalized and eventually died. I would like to extend my deepest regrets to all their families and friends. I guess we can all expect to go sooner or later, but it's always better when it's later. All of these men were much too young.



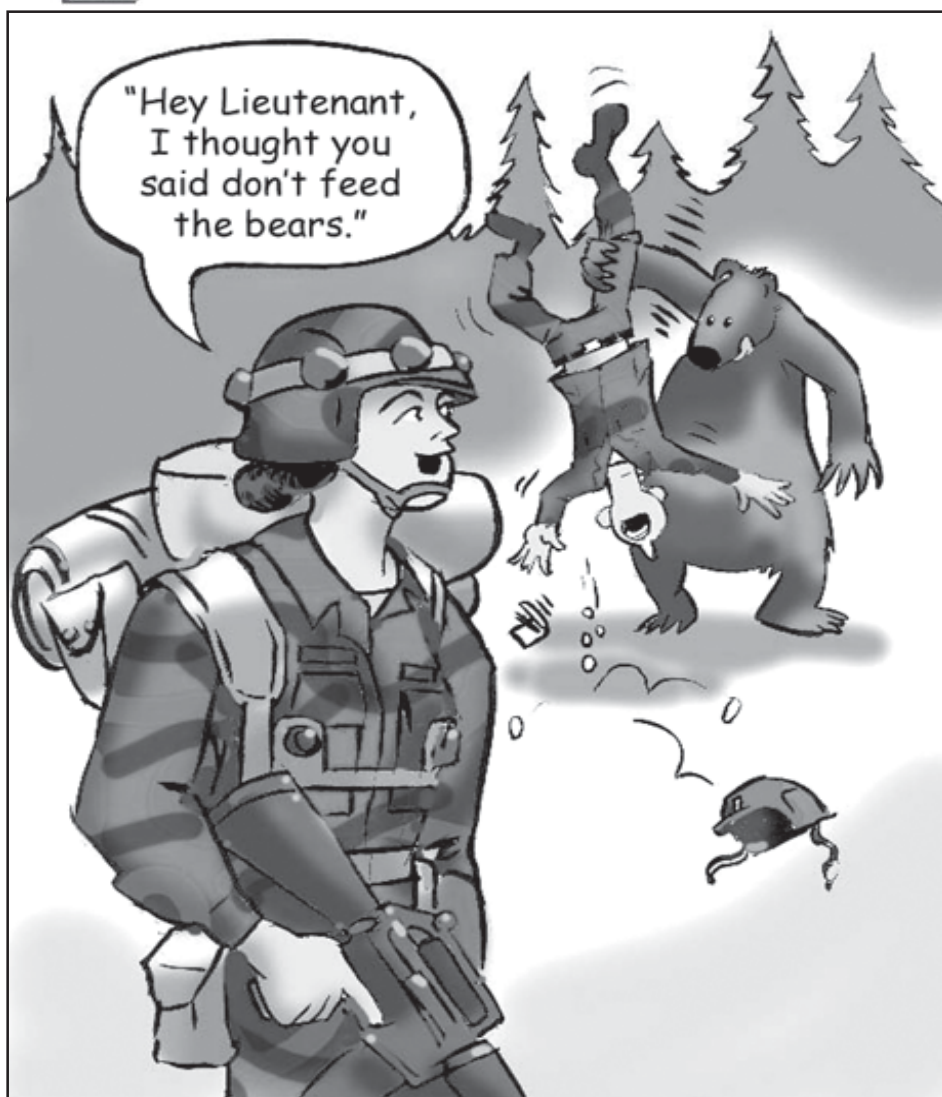
INFORMATION

Security Begins With You!

The success of America's campaign against terrorism depends on you. Don't help America's enemies plan another attack. Use secure communications when discussing classified or sensitive information. Handle and discard memos, documents, correspondence and e-mails appropriately. Practice good computer security when accessing the Internet. Our enemies are unlike any we've encountered before. Don't over-rely on information that can harm us.

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



**NEW CHANGE OF COMMAND RITUALS
BROUGHT TO US BY TECHNOLOGY:
"THE PASSING OF THE BLACKBERRY"**



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Electronics Mechanic	CSMS	WG-11	Apr. 11, 2006
Surface Maintenance Mechanic Sprvr.	CSMS	WS-10	Apr. 11, 2006
Maintenance Test Pilot (Indef)	AVCRAD	GS-12	Apr. 12, 2006
Human Resources Specialist (Military)	R&RCMD	GS-09	Apr. 14, 2006
Aircraft Propeller Mechanic	AVCRAD	WG-11	Apr. 17, 2006
Administrative Officer	CFMO	GS-09	Apr. 17, 2006
Supervisory Facility Ops Spec. (Indef)	CFMO	GS-12	Apr. 17, 2006
Civil Engineering Tech (Indef)	CFMO	GS-09	Apr. 17, 2006
Environmental Protection Spec. (Indef)	CFMO	GS-11	Apr. 17, 2006
Administrative Assistant (Indef)	JFHQ-CT	GS-07	Apr. 19, 2006
Aircraft Mechanic	AASF	WG-10	Apr. 26, 2006
Sheet Metal Mechanic (Small Shop Chief)	AASF	WG-11	Apr. 27, 2006
Supply Technician	DOL	GS-07	Apr. 27, 2006
Aircraft Electrician	AASF	WG-10	May 2, 2006
Information Tech. Spec. (Customer Spt)	USPFO	GS-11	May 3, 2006

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Aircraft Mechanic	103rd FW	WG-10	Apr. 11, 2006
Electronic Integrated Systems Mech.	103rd FW	WG-12/11/08	Apr. 11, 2006
Quality Assurance Spec. (Aircraft)	103rd FW	GS-09	Apr. 14, 2006
Supply Management Officer	103rd FW	GS-12	Apr. 14, 2006
Supervisory Supply Technician	103rd FW	GS-10	Apr. 14, 2006
Human Resources Assistant (Military)	103rd FW	GS-07	Apr. 14, 2006
Flight Services Manager	103rd FW	GS-11	Apr. 18, 2006
Aircraft Mechanic (Indef)	103rd FW	WG-12	Apr. 26, 2006
Accounting Technician	103rd FW	GS-07	Apr. 28, 2006
Electronic Integrated Systems Mech.	103rd FW	WG-12	May 2, 2006

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Personnel Services Sergeant	JFHQ-CT (SIDPERS)	E-3 to E-5	Open AGR Nationwide
Training Officer	192nd Engr. Bn.	O-1 to O-3	Open AGR Statewide

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Human Resource Spec. (Military)	103rd FW	E-7 and Below	Open AGR Nationwide
Suprv Human Resources Spec (Mil)	103rd FW	E-8 or E-9	On Board AGR Only
Aircraft Mechanic	103rdFW	E-2 to E-6	On Board AGR Only
Supervisory Supply Tech	103rd FW	E-8	On Board AGR Only
Supply Management Officer	103rd FW	O-4 and below	On Board AGR Only
Accounting Technician	103rd FW	E-6 and below	On Board AGR Only
Electronic Integrated Sys Mech	103rd FW	E-2 to E-5	On Board AGR Only

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Coming Events

April

April 13

Passover

April 14

Good Friday

April 15

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

April 16

Easter

April 23

BNCOC Graduation

April 27

Take Our Children to Work Day

May

May 6

Annual Redleg Ball

May 14

Mother's Day

May 19

Armed Forces Day Luncheon

May 20

Armed Forces Day

May 29

Memorial Day

June

June 14

Flag Day

Army Birthday

June 18

Father's Day

In future issues

208th Receives Freedom Salute

143rd MPs Honored with Valorous Unit Award

Ethics in Military, Life

Transformation Series Continues

Hunting for Easter Eggs

NGACT Conference Draws National, State Leaders

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.



CW4 Cooper Hastings celebrates his homecoming with his family. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Det. 6
OSACOM
returns
from Iraq

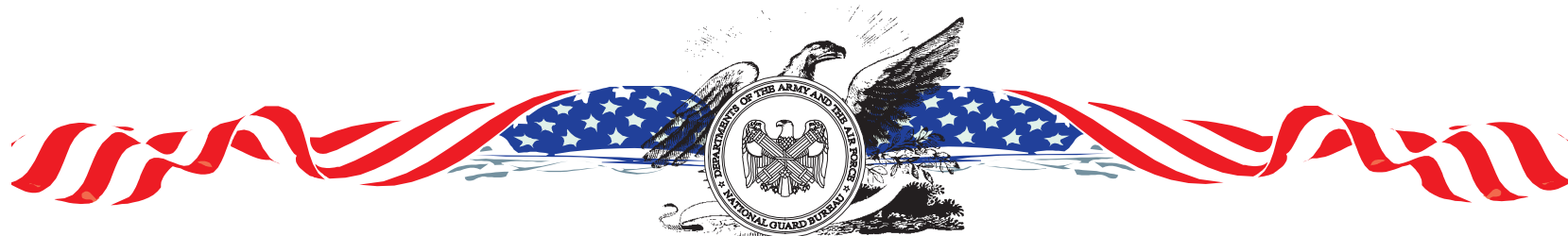


Family and friends wait for the vans that will bring their Soldiers to the hanger at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks. The members of Det. 6 OSACOM were returning from deployment to Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton)



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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 7 NO. 4

HARTFORD, CT

APRIL 2006

Volunteer Recognition Week is April 23-29th

EDELINA VILLAVICENCIO
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, NGB-J1-FP
COURTESY OF NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM

Volunteer Recognition Week is quickly approaching! Have you done all you can to thank your volunteers?

The listing below contains some Web sites with ideas on how to recognize your most valuable resource, your volunteers!

- The Points of Light Foundation: this non-profit's charge is "to encourage people from all walks of life, businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families and youth to volunteer. Download some sample certificates of appreciation, statistics on volunteering, proclamations, media information and much more! Their marketplace contains recognition samples starting at under \$1.00.

- Military One Source: type "volunteer" in the search engine and receive articles on volunteer personal development.

- Women of Worth: L'Oreal Paris' Women of Worth Contest chooses seven winners throughout the US. Winners have \$5,000 donated in their name to a charitable organization and another \$5,000 donated to the Ovarian Cancer research fund.

Next year's Volunteer Recognition Week is April 15-21, 2007!

Check out more Guard family news from the Guard Family Program.

Support our Soldiers. Check out America Supports You.

Thank our Soldiers! A Million Thanks has set a goal to send 2.6 million "Thank You" letters to Soldiers.



April is the Month of the Military Child



Child development organization aids military children, families

STEVEN DONALD SMITH
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Recognizing that children of servicemembers often face challenges that other children do not, the nonprofit child development organization "Zero To Three" launched a special project geared specifically toward military families.

"Supporting military children is an essential element of supporting military families in general," Dorinda Williams, a Zero To Three training and consultation specialist, said in an interview. "Zero To Three recognizes that military parents often face extreme and emotionally draining circumstances, and we try to provide support through information and resources that translate into increased capacity to meet the emotional needs of babies and toddlers."

April is officially the "Month of the Military Child," which celebrates military young ones and raises awareness about their unique situation. Zero To Three works toward these ends all year long by supporting the healthy development and well-being of military children by educating their parents on child-rearing techniques. "We are a national, multidisciplinary organization that advances our mission by informing, educating and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers," Williams said.

Zero To Three concentrates on critical issues affecting young children and their families, including early language and literacy development and the impact of culture on early childhood development. The organization is adept at translating what is known from the science of early childhood development into practical tools and resources for professionals, programs, parents and policymakers, Williams said.

Over the past several years Zero to Three has become increasingly involved with issues affecting military children. For instance, the group established a military projects division specifically aimed at the needs of babies and toddlers of military families.

One of the division's projects is "Operation Parenting Edge," a partnership of the Marine Corps and the federal Early Head Start program. This venture is a two-year training and consultation pilot project that supports Early Head Start staff by increasing sensitivity to how babies and toddlers may be impacted by military-specific stresses, Williams said.

The organization provides training through on-site visits, special meetings, and teleconferences. "This project stems from the recognition that, with current world events . . . military families and resources available to them may be increasingly strained," she said. "It is our hope that this project will serve as a model of how the military can collaborate with civilian resources to further expand support to families."

In addition, Zero To Three hosted a Defense Department summit in Washington, D. C., in November. The summit brought together professionals supporting military families from around the world. The overall intent of the summit was to promote the interests and needs of babies and toddlers through specialized trainings and workshops, Williams said.

The organization's Web site offers extensive information for military families. It features articles by military professionals and parents on topics unique to the military community.



CATHERINE GALASSO

Our attitude is an asset

I was intrigued by the opening sentence advertising a television documentary about Abraham Lincoln. It said, "He fought two wars... and one was in his mind."

I wonder how many of us fight that same battle.

Abraham Lincoln, one of America's most beloved Presidents, was a man who built a lifetime of accomplishments out of defeats. His life stands as an eloquent example of steadfast perseverance, pushing forth in the face of difficulties and the successful use of setbacks in achieving victory.

So many streams flow into the human mind; we have to constantly be on guard what we think about, for our mind-set determines our self-image, behavior and achievements. Our outlook decides the magnitude of our hopes, dreams, and influences our fortitude when we are confronted with challenges.

If we want to receive the rewards the future holds in trust for us, then we must exercise the most important choice given to us by maintaining total authority over our attitude. Our life follows our thoughts. And like a magnet, we draw in what we believe.

Our attitude is an asset, a treasure of great value, which must be protected accordingly.

No one else has dominion over our attitude. But beware of the thieves who try to injure a positive attitude or seek to steal it away. Some people can affect our attitude by giving us negative sources of influence, though no one can have power over our attitude unless we voluntarily surrender that control.

We decide, not they.

I heard a story about the great artist Leonardo da Vinci. One day, he was working on a painting and permitted a group of children to watch him. Accidentally, one child knocked over his picture. Da Vinci was so angry he could not continue to create. Though he attempted, he could not paint with that resentment in his heart. His anger stifled his creativity.

It's the same thing with us. When we are full of bitterness or anger, it holds us back.

Every minute spent upset is sixty seconds of happiness wasted. Push away disparaging thoughts; dismiss them, using your willpower to banish them. No matter what comes up against us, we must let peace reign in our hearts. Don't be discouraged, press on, persevere. There is always hope to arise triumphantly from tribulations. If we meet challenges with faith, we can overcome.

The first place we must be triumphant is in our own minds. If we think we'll overcome that challenge, we will. If we assume victory, we will be victorious. As we think in our heart, so shall we be. And as we set our thoughts on the affirmative, on success, on attainment, we will move towards those conditions, attracting them to us.

Let's always be positive towards ourselves, accentuating our many fine attributes. We must not take inventory of what we are not; we all have things to conquer. But as long as we are pressing forward and trying our best, God is pleased.

Combat pessimism with optimism and gratitude. Talk happiness, faith, health. Say you are well, and all is well with you. "Life is good," states reader Lucille Clancy of Orange. "Let's be thankful when we get up in the morning and can take a nice deep breath. It's another blessed day."

Every morning, let's observe things that inspire us; cheerful pictures, motivating phrases, faith filled scriptures. Go outdoors and look at God's beauty, feeding ourselves good things. Be around happy, motivating people. Keep busy. It's said the idle mind is the enemy's playground, so stay active and help people all you can. A reader wrote, "Extending yourself to help others will come back to you with great results." Be kind, considerate; pass on a smile, a prayer or word of encouragement.

The best way to conquer negativity is with the word of God. In His presence is fullness of joy, so let's parallel our thoughts with God's words, His promises, dwelling on positive declarations of faith, hope and abundance that can strengthen us and propel us towards victory.

"I will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." Isaiah 26:3.

Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito, nationally syndicated columnist and author of "A New You, Words to Soothe the Body, Mind and Spirit," in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 or e-mail her at anewyou@snet.net © Catherine Galasso, 2006

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET - 2006

1. The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) proudly announces the 2004 scholarship program. The following persons are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- NGACT Members.
- Unmarried sons and daughters or grandchildren of NGACT members.
- Spouses of NGACT members.
- Unmarried spouses and unmarried dependent sons and daughters or grandchildren of deceased NGACT members who were members in good standing at the time of their death.



- Honorary, Associate and Corporate membership alone does not qualify any of the persons listed above for eligibility to apply for a scholarship.
- Scholarships will be awarded in an amount based on available funds for the upcoming school year. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited college, university, trade school or business school. Graduate students are not eligible for scholarships.
- Awards will be sent directly to the recipient with each check made payable to the recipient's choice of school. To receive the awards, verifications will be required to the effect that enrollment has commenced or will commence.
- There shall be no consideration in selecting the awardees of a scholarship because of friendship, rank or grade of the applicant, applicant's parents/grandparents or applicant's spouse. Awards will be made on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and need.
- All applications will be accompanied by the following:
 - A transcript of high school credits and a transcript of college credits for applicants already in institutions of higher learning.
 - A letter from the applicant with personal, specific facts as to his/her desire to continue his/her education and why financial assistance is required.
 - Two (2) letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving general information & personal traits that would make the applicant a desirable recipient. These letters should ideally be from a community leader, ministers, elected officials, etc.
 - One (1) letter of academic reference (should be from a principle, counselor, dean or professor).
- If the recipient does not complete the school term for which the scholarship is awarded, due to any cause other than sickness, physical injury or military deployment, the recipient will refund the award to the National Guard Association of Connecticut within sixty (60) days from the date enrollment was terminated.
- All scholarship applications will be sent to the NGACT Scholarship Committee, NGACT, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795. Each application will be reviewed for completeness and forwarded to the scholarship committee. Applications must include all materials.
- Deadline date for all applications for scholarships will be observed in all instances. The deadline for submitting applications is 30 June 2006. Applications must be postmarked NLT 30 June 2006.
- Scholarship Committee. The President of the NGACT will appoint a committee and a chairman. The remainder of the committee will be structured to ensure to include at a minimum of five members, at least two ARNG and two ANG.
- Applications are available on line at www.ngact.com

Visit the

Connecticut Guardian

on-line at

www.ct.ngb.army.mil



HANDYPERSON HOTLINE



"CARRYING THE HOMEFRONT"

**SERGEANT MAJOR
TOBY P. CORMIER**

Ph: 860-441-2984

Cell: 860-209-0770

toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil

Defense Department celebrates 'Month of the Military Child'

STEVEN DONALD SMITH
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Defense Department has long understood the value of caring for and celebrating children of servicemembers.

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. The Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome.

Military children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed for extended periods of time and frequently being uprooted from school.

"Military children endure a great deal of change as a result of a parent's military career," Douglas Ide, a public affairs officer with the Army's Community and Family Support Center, said. "The military family averages nine moves through a 20-year career. And in doing so, their children must say goodbye to friends, change schools, and start all over again."

Throughout the month, numerous military commands will plan special events to honor military children. These events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle, defense personnel and readiness officials said.

"Installations are honoring military children by providing the month packed with special activities that include arts and crafts shows, picnics, carnivals, fairs, parades, block parties and other special activities, focusing on military children that highlight the unique contributions they make," according to a Defense Department fact sheet.

The Defense Department will also launch a new toolkit series called "Military Students on the Move." The toolkit includes material designed to promote more efficient and effective methods of moving military children from school to school. The toolkit includes material for parents, children, installation commanders and

school officials, Defense Department officials said.

In addition, the U. S. Air Force recently launched its "Stay Connected" deployment program kits in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child. The kits include items like teddy bears, writing pens and disposable cameras.

"The purpose of the Stay Connected kit is to provide young people and parents an avenue to keep a connection during the deployed members' time away from home," Eliza Nesmith, an Air Force family member programs specialist said. "The items in the kit come in pairs, so that the young person and parent can have an item that will help them remember each other."

Air Force bases will choose the best distribution method to correspond with an existing event or develop a new event to best serve their families. For example, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., will give out Stay Connected kits to deploying servicemembers during its basewide Month of the Military Child celebration, planned for April 8, Nesmith said.

Throughout the month of April, the U. S. Navy child and youth programs will also be hosting special programs and events to salute military children. These events will include, carnivals, health screening for children, youth talent shows, and more, Navy officials said.

"Events that celebrate the Month of the Military Child stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle," Larrie Jarvis, a Navy child and youth programs analyst said.

Army bases will plan their own events such as fun runs, bicycle safety courses, carnivals, fishing derbies, community service projects, and other events geared specifically toward children and youth, Army officials said.

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who died March 28. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.



*Thank you,
Families, for
all that you
do and all
that you
sacrifice.*

*We are
indebted to
you.*



Kids' Corner Trivia Answers

Trivia Answers 1. Of the nine planets and one star in our solar system, which ones have a magnetic field? Sun, Earth, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus. 2. What three metals that can be magnetized? Iron, Cobalt, and Nickel.

Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc announces its 2006 scholarship program. This year the foundation will award a total of **four** scholarships.

1. A **single \$3000.00 scholarship honoring SGT Felix Delgreco Jr.** will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard.
2. **Three \$2000.00 scholarships** will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses.

Application forms may be found on the Foundations web site at: www.ctngfoundation.org

Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than **15 May 2006**
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program
4. Mail application form and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
360 Broad Street, Hartford Armory
Hartford, CT 06015

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241 1550 or e-mail ctngfi@sbcglobal.net for further details.



Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Ms. Tamara Jex

Manchester Armory
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286
Capt. Lauri Tinelle & Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730 Mrs. Donna Rivera

Norwich Armory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 883-6934
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983 Charlie and Jane Solomon

Windsor Locks
Bldg. P123, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860) 386-4045 Mrs. Rita O'Donnell

Hartford Armory
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
1-800-858-2677
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty,
2LT Claude Hibbert, Mrs. Melissa Tetro-Dow, Mr. Bert Saur
and Staff Sgt. Jessica McKenna-Boski

Volunteers are needed in each facility.

Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677. Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address:

kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil

Please visit our Website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family

How to make a compass

Materials - bowl, water, pin, magnet, cork

1. Hold one end of the pin, and wipe the magnet along the pin. When you get to the end of the pin, lift the magnet off and move it back to the top of the pin. Do NOT wipe the magnet back up the pin. Repeat at least 20 times.
2. Push the pin through the cork.
3. Fill the bowl with water. Put the pin and the cork on the water.
The pin will rotated and line up along the north south axis.

Hints

- Make sure there the bowl isn't made of metal and there is no metal around the bowl (like a knife or pair of scissors).
- Move your compass away from other magnetic fields, like the TV.

Experiments with Magnets and Compasses

While a compass will do its best to point to magnetic north, there are many things that can interfere with it (like the strong magnetic field that can be produced by a TV screen or computer monitor).

1. Try bringing a compass near a TV and see what happens. Does it make a difference if the TV is turned off?
2. What happens if a piece of iron or steel comes close to the compass?
3. What happens if a strong magnet is moved around the outside of the compass?

KID'S

CREATIVE

CORNER

A monthly feature of
fun and educational
activities for the children
of the Connecticut
National Guard

Trivia Questions

1. Of the nine planets and one star in our solar system, which ones have a magnetic field?
2. What three metals that can be magnetized?

Find the answers to these kids' science questions on P S3